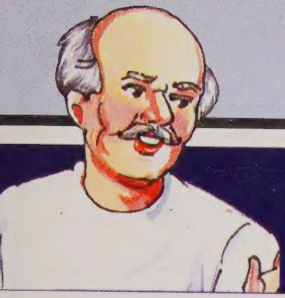


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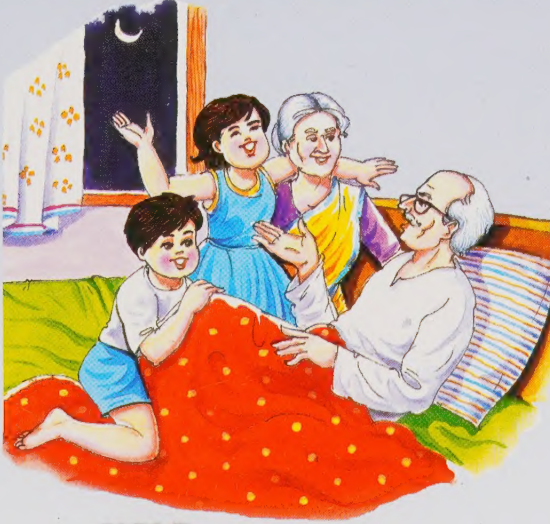


136

# Grandpa's Tales







# 136 Grandpa's Tales


**Best of 136 Grandpa's Tales** is a collection of tales that remind you of cosy afternoons with grandparents and of an age when time had wings.

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- Tales from ancient and modern times.
- Tales that teach not 'preach'.
- Tales of wit, humour and human values.
- Well illustrated, colourful book of tales.

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Happy Reading!



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*Best of*  
**136**  
**Grandpa's Tales**



**TINY TOT PUBLICATIONS**  
**INDIA**

Best of  
**136**  
**Grandpa's Tales**

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# 1. The Stolen Horse



Once a tired traveller who was riding his horse the whole day, saw a shady grove of trees. He got down, and after letting the horse to graze nearby, he lay down under a shady tree.

After a few hours, the traveller woke up and saw that his horse was missing. He searched around the grove but could not find his horse. He saw a stout stick lying on the ground. Now, he knew that someone must have stolen the horse. He picked the stick and started walking towards the nearby village. He went to the village's market. Then he waved the stick and shouted, "Who has stolen my horse ? Whosoever has done this, must return my horse or I'll do what I had done the last time."

By his loud voice, the thief got scared. He brought the horse and handed it over to the traveller and asked in a whisper, "What did you do the last time, your horse was stolen ?"

The traveller smiled and said, "Oh ! I bought a new horse from the city."



## 2. The Smelly Lion

Once the lion king fell very ill. Soon a foul smell started to coming out of his body. When the animals came to know that their king was ill, they went to meet him. But even a few steps away from the den, they could smell a foul smell. So, they put hankies to their noses to keep off the smell.



While meeting the animals, the lion asked the reason for that. A bear and a zebra spoke up, “Because a bad smell is coming out of your body.”

The lion lost his temper at such insulting words. He promptly killed them. The other animals ran away to save their lives.



One day a clever fox came to meet the lion. The lion asked him the same question. The fox had noticed the dead bodies of the bear and the zebra near the den. So he said, “Your Majesty, I can’t smell because my nose is closed due to cold.”

With these words, the fox ran away to save his life. He knew that one must speak according to the situation.



### 3. The Foolish Friends



Once a mouse and a frog were close friends. They spent most of their time together.

When the frog would go back to the pond, the mouse would miss him. In the same way, the frog grew sad everytime the mouse went off in search of food. So they took a rope and tied one end of it around the frog's leg and the other to the mouse's foot. Every time they missed each other, one would pull the rope to call the other.

One day, the frog went deep underwater in the pond in search of food. He forgot that his foot was tied with the mouse's. He went deeper and deeper in the water. Soon the poor mouse was pulled into the water and drowned.

An eagle flying over the pond spotted the dead mouse.

The eagle came down, took the mouse in its beak and flew away. The frog who was tied at the other end of the rope was also found by the eagle. The eagle ate him too. Thus, the lives of both the friends came to an end because of their foolishness.



## 4. The Lion's Wish

Once a fierce lion lived in a forest.

A woodcutter with his wife and their beautiful daughter Rupa lived in a small hut by the edge of the forest.

Once the lion happened to see Rupa. He was so captivated by her beauty that he wished to make her his wife.

So the lion went to the woodcutter's hut and roared loudly. "O Woodcutter, I want to marry your daughter Rupa. If you refuse I will kill you all."

The woodcutter said, "Let me ask my daughter first."

He went inside the hut and came out a few minutes later. Then he said, "Rupa is scared of your sharp teeth and claws. She said if you would cut them off, she will agree to be your wife."

Without any further thought, the lion got his teeth, and claws removed. Without the claws and teeth, the lion was now no longer powerful. Even the woodcutter was not afraid of him anymore. He began to beat the lion with a heavy stick. Unable to attack back, the lion ran to the forest and never came back.





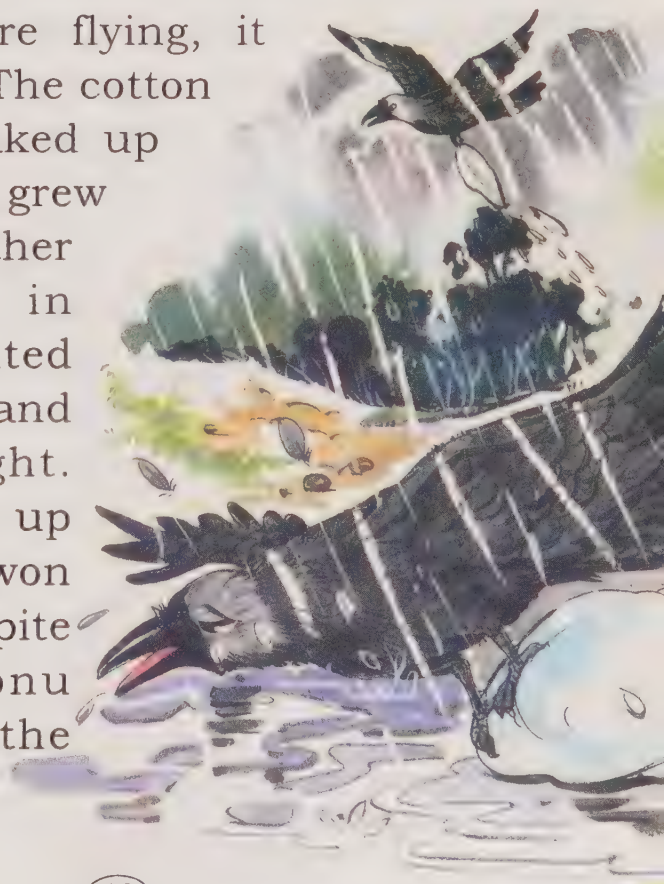
## 5. The Mean Crow



Once, two crows Sonu and Monu were close friends. One day, they got into an argument to prove their superiority. To decide who was better than the other, they decided on a challenge. Each of them was supposed to fly with a bag filled with something in their beaks. The crow who could fly up higher would be declared the best.

But Sonu was a mean crow. He put cotton balls in his bag and salt in Monu's bag. Then the two crows took flight. Soon Sonu was flying higher than Monu, as he had lightweight cotton in his bag. But Monu could not gain height due to the salt in his bag.

As the crows were flying, it started to drizzle. The cotton in Sonu's bag soaked up the raindrops and grew heavy. On the other hand, the salt in Monu's bag melted away in the rain and became very light. Now Monu flew up higher and thus won the challenge. In spite of cheating, Sonu could not win the challenge.



## 6. The Rabbit's Friend

One day, a rabbit was taking a stroll in the evening. He was busy enjoying the light breeze and the bounty of nature. Suddenly he spotted a fox approaching him. The rabbit got scared and thought of running away. But the fox came up to him and said, "Relax friend, don't be afraid of me. I want to be your friend. I will not harm you."



The fox poured out such sweet talk that soon the rabbit fell right into his trap. Day by day the rabbit became a close friend of the fox.

One day, the fox invited the rabbit for lunch. The rabbit, dressed in his finest suit, reached the fox's house. The fox gave the rabbit a warm welcome.



Then he offered him the rabbit's favourite dish, carrot juice. But even after drinking the carrot juice, the rabbit was still hungry. He asked the fox, "Friend, has the lunch not been cooked yet?"

The fox smiled and said, "Mine is ready because I can have raw lunch." With these words, the fox pounced on the rabbit and ate him up.



## 7. The Notorious Animals



Once a fox and a wolf got into a petty argument. Soon the argument grew into a fierce fight. They decided to go to the law court for justice. Both the animals told their sides of the story to the monkey judge.

After hearing their stories, the monkey judge grew thoughtful. So finally the monkey judge read out his judgement. It read, "We all know that foxes are very clever and mean. The tales of their tricks are known all over the world. They can never be fooled. The fox will thus be punished for falsely accusing the wolf."

On hearing that, the wolf looked proud but then the monkey judge continued, "On the other hand, wolves are not less cruel than the foxes. They can never be trapped with flattery or tricks. I am sure the wolf is lying too. So he is also fit to receive the same punishment."

So neither the fox nor the wolf could win the case. Because of their notorious reputation both of them got the punishment.



## 8. Help Yourself

Once, two mice entered a dairy. As they were looking for something to eat, they slipped and fell into a large drum full of milk. They did not know how to swim. Soon they started drowning.



Both of them started struggling to stay afloat. One of the mice said, "Friend, I think we are going to drown. No one can help us now. I wish God would send someone to help us!"

The other mouse calmly said, "Do not be afraid my friend. We must not lose heart. We must keep trying."

But a few minutes later, the first mouse gave up hope. He did not try and so he drowned. The other mouse saw his friend drowning in the milk and felt very sorry.



He kept moving his legs to try to keep afloat. Soon this had a churning effect and a thick layer of cream fat was formed on the milk's surface. With great effort, the mouse climbed the creamy layer and jumped out to safety. The mouse realized that God helps those who help themselves.



## 9. The Brainy Donkey



Once a donkey was grazing at the edge of the village. He was so lost in eating the sweet green grass, that he wandered into the forest nearby.

Soon it was evening and the donkey decided to go home. So he turned to take the path which led to the village. As he walked on, suddenly, he was confronted by a big fierce lion. The sight of the lion's large mane and sharp claws scared the donkey.

But the donkey was very clever. He addressed the lion and said, "Oh ! Your Majesty, what a pleasure to see you. I would be honoured to serve you as your dinner. But I must tell you about the proper way of eating a donkey. It is said that one must start eating from the hind legs. That part tastes the best."

The lion believed the donkey and as he went behind him, the donkey kicked the lion with great force. The lion was knocked down and fell into a thorny bush. By the time he was on his feet, the donkey had run off to the village.



## 10. Elephant's Teeth

Once a hungry mouse found a small nut. He started to bite into it but its cover was hard and thick. The mouse's tiny teeth could not cut into it.

The irritated mouse prayed aloud to God, "Oh God! Why did you give me such tiny teeth ? I have food here but I cannot eat."

Immediately he heard God's voice, "Dear Mouse, go and look at the other animals' teeth. Whosoever's teeth you like, will be given to you."

So the mouse went to the forest nearby. He looked at the teeth of many animals living there. But he did not like their teeth at all. At last the mouse went to the elephant. He was much impressed by the long, white tusks of the elephant. The little mouse

asked the elephant, "Sir, are you happy with your long beautiful teeth ?"

At this, the elephant replied, "Friend, these teeth are just for show. I cannot use them to chew food like you do. At least you don't have to bear the heavy weight of your teeth."

Hearing this, the mouse thanked God for giving him the tiny teeth.







## 11. The Trusting Shepherd

A shepherd used to take his flock of sheep to graze in a meadow. A wolf used to eye his fat sheep. He wanted to eat them. So he made a plan.

One day he went to the shepherd and spoke to him in a soft voice. But the shepherd knew that the wolf could harm his flock. So he was very cautious. The cunning wolf slowly took him into confidence and soon they became friends. Meanwhile, the wolf with great difficulty, controlled his urge to attack the sheep that roamed near him. The shepherd started trusting the wolf.

One day the shepherd had to return to the village in haste. He left the flock of sheep in the care of his friend, the wolf. The wolf had waited patiently for such a chance for many weeks now. As soon as the shepherd left, the wolf pounced on the sheep. He ate up most of them. The shepherd returned and saw the remains of his flock. He realized that the wicked wolf had betrayed him. He cried out in sorrow for trusting the cruel wolf.



## 12. The Clever Barber

One day, a barber was going to the next village. On the way he had to pass through a forest full of wild animals.



Suddenly all his worst fears came true. A fierce lion came and stood before him. But the barber gathered courage and went to the lion. The lion was surprised to see the barber acting this way. The barber said, "Ah! Here you are and I have been searching all the nearby forests to look for you."

The lion was taken aback at the barber's words. With some fear in his heart, he asked the barber, "But why were you looking for me?"

The barber replied, "The king had asked me to catch two lions for him. I have already caught one of them. I guess you will be the next one."



And then the barber took a mirror and put it before the lion's face. The lion saw his reflection and mistook it for another lion.

So the lion ran away to save his life and the clever barber went on his way.



### 13. The 'Brave' Hunter



Once a hunter lived in a village. He used to boast of his brave hunting trips to the villagers. The villagers respected him a lot. He mostly told everyone how he had fought a lion bare handed or of killing an elephant with a single bullet. He said that the tiny animals used to get scared even at the sight of him.

One day, the hunter was passing through a forest. A woodcutter from the same village, was busy cutting trees. The boastful hunter approached him and said, "How are you? It's a fine day, isn't it?"

"Yes, Yes, indeed!" the woodcutter replied.

"Well, can you tell me if you have seen some footprints of the lion nearby? Its been months since I killed any."

The woodcutter knew that the hunter only boasted. So he said, "Yes, a lion is in a nearby den. Can I take you there?" But the scared hunter said, "No.. No... I only just wanted to see his footprints." And so the boastful hunter ran away from the spot.



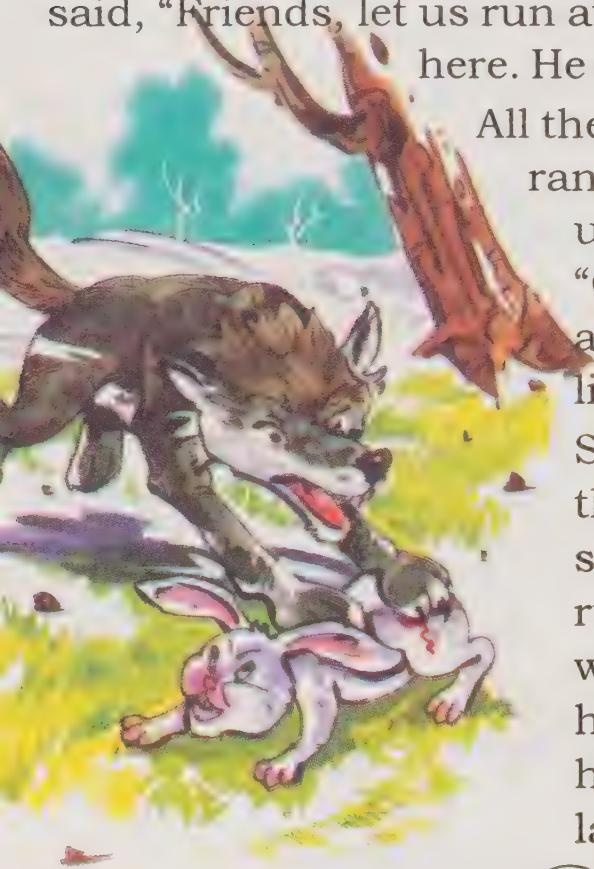
## 14. Lazy Monu

Once, a lazy rabbit named Monu lived in a forest. He never did any work at home. He walked and hopped slowly. He never reached anywhere in time because he was slow and lazy. His parents always warned him, "Son, your laziness will make you suffer one day. Please leave this bad habit."



But Monu never paid heed to their advice. He did not leave his bad habit of laziness.

One day Monu was lying under a shady tree. Some other rabbits were playing nearby. Just then another rabbit, named Sonu, saw a wolf coming down the path. He went to the other rabbits and said, "Friends, let us run away. The wolf is coming here. He will eat us up."



All the rabbits heard him and ran off. Sonu tried to wake up Monu but he said, "Oh! The wolf is far away. Let me sleep a little longer."

Sonu went away. Soon the wolf came to the spot. Monu could not run away in time. The wolf pounced and killed him. So the Monu lost his life due to his laziness.



## 15. The Fox's Gift



The forest was buzzing with activity. All the animals and birds were dressed in their best. They were all carrying colourfully packed gifts and heading for the lion's den. It was the lion king's birthday and he had invited everyone.

At the den, all the animals were present but the fox was absent. The wolf was jealous of the fox. So he got a chance to get him in trouble.

The wolf said to the lion, "Your Majesty, see how insulting the fox has been. He has not come to wish or gift you on this great occasion."

Just then the fox reached the den. He overheard the wolf talking against him. The clever fox grew thoughtful. Then he said, "Your Majesty, I got late because I had gone to get magical shoes for you. They will keep you forever young. But unfortunately I couldn't get them."

"Why?" The lion asked.

"Because there was no wolf skin to make it."

The wolf heard this and ran away from the den. He did not want to be killed to be made into the lion's shoes.



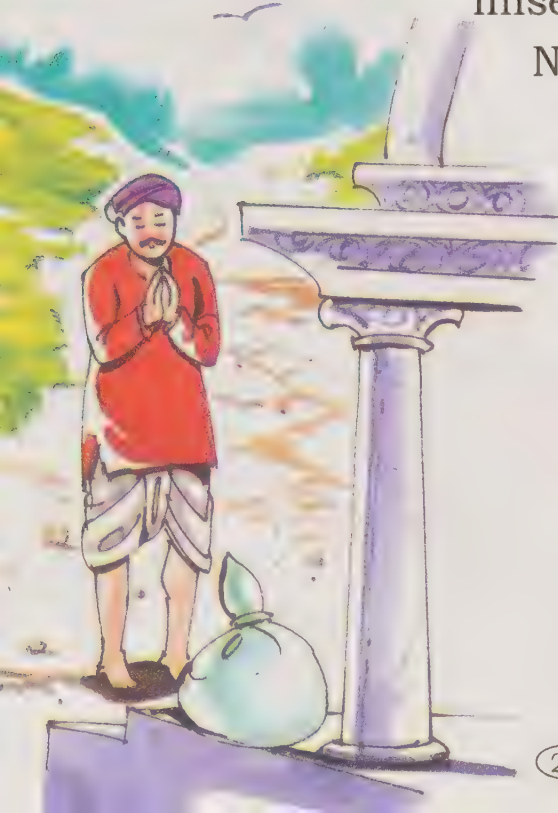
## 16. The Poor Devotee

Once a very poor man lived in a village. He worked very hard the whole day. But the wages of his labour could barely feed his family once a day. His house was nothing but an old hut with a leaky roof. But all through such misery, the poor man did not ever complain to God. He was also thankful for what he had. He went to the village temple everyday. There he would offer flowers to God and then go around the temple seven times over. Only then would the poor man go to work.



Once, God felt very sorry for the poor condition of his devotee. So he thought, "Tomorrow I'll keep a bag full of gold coins for him outside the temple. He will pick it up and all his miseries will be over."

Next morning, the devotee decided to go around the temple with his eyes closed and chanting God's name. So he never saw the bag with gold coins. After his departure, God took the bag and said, "No one gets anything before his lucky time or more than his fortune has in its order."





## 17. The Thankless Snake



Once there was a kind hearted farmer. So many a times, he would help the other farmers in their fields. He used to tend to the sick people and would always feed the hungry. He also liked to give love and care to animals and birds.

One day the farmer went to a nearby village. As he was returning, he saw an injured snake on the road. It seemed that when the snake was crawling across the road some bullock cart had run over the creature. Luckily the snake was alive but it was unconscious. Its wounds were bleeding. The kind farmer gently wrapped the injured snake in a cloth and took it home.

At home, the farmer washed and put some medicine on its wounds. Then he left the snake at home and went to the market to get some milk for it. When he came back, the snake had become conscious. It bit the farmer and he died instantly.

The villagers said sadly, "The farmer did not know that an evil creature never changes its nature."



## 18. Fruits of Labour

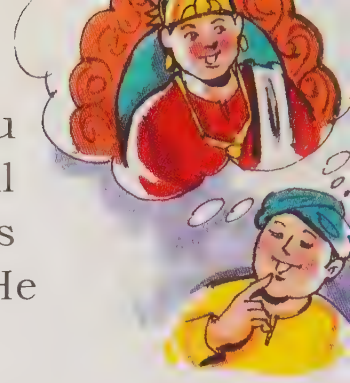
Once, a very lazy boy named Ramu lived in a small village. He spent all his time loitering around and was always busy in daydreaming. He avoided to do any work.

One day Ramu found a bag full of money. He was delighted. He knew that one had to work to earn money. But he felt lucky for getting money without any effort at all. Ramu went and bought many tasty sweets from the bakery. Then he got some new clothes. In such a way, he started to spend the money he had got.

His mother said, "Son, don't waste the money. Use it to start some business. Work hard at it and you will become rich."

But Ramu said, "I have no need to work. I have a lot of money."

Within a few months Ramu had spent all the money in the bag. Soon he had not even a morsel to eat at home. The villagers also refused to employ such a lazy boy. Then Ramu understood that free money was not worth it. Only fruits of labour can feed a man lifelong.





## 19. The Bird Doctor



Once there was a man who loved birds a lot. He made an aviary. It was a large cage in which the birds could live and even fly around inside.

Everyday, the man would keep fresh grains, nuts and water for the birds.

One day, in the absence of the man, a clever cat dressed up as a doctor and went to the aviary.

There he called out, "Birds ! My friends, open the door. I have come to check you up. Your master has sent me."

The birds were intelligent enough to comprehend the tricky trap being laid by the wily cat. They said, "You are a cat and our arch enemy. We won't open the door at all."

"But friends, I am a doctor. I cannot harm you. And this is a professional visit."

But the birds refused to open the door of the aviary. The cat went away defeated.

Then the birds chirped out loud, "Just like a leopard never changes its spots, we all know a cat never mends its ways."



## 20. Horse and the Donkey

Once a brave soldier had a swift horse and a hard working donkey. He used the horse during the battles. The donkey he had kept, carried loads of goods when there was no war, so as to earn some money.



The donkey was jealous of the horse as he thought that the horse was generally enjoying idle life whereas he worked hard and earned livelihood for the master and also for the horse.

One day the soldier learnt that there would be war between his kingdom and the neighbouring country. The donkey felt happy. He thought with pleasure, “Oh! The horse will go to the

battleground and I will be free to enjoy here.” So the donkey

teased the horse but just

then, a message was

received that a treaty

had been signed. So

there would be no war.

The soldier sent the

donkey to a merchant’s

house to carry his goods

to earn some money. So

the donkey was taught a

lesson because he had

teased someone who

was sad and worried.





## 21. Save The Green Earth

God created this whole wonderful world. He made it beautiful, happy and green. There were large green fields with grass and colourful flowers.

Then God made birds and animals to live in the meadows and the fields, the woods and the forests. After that God created Man to take care of his beautiful creations. He made Man as the most intelligent and best of all his creations.

But then, God had some doubt in his mind. He wondered if Man would really take good care of his creations. So he warned Man, "You must keep earth as green and as beautiful as I have created it. Do not commit any sin when you go to Earth. Or as a punishment the earth will lose its beauty and will turn into a vast desert."

Soon Man forgot God's warning. He started stealing, lying and committing other sins. So Earth turned into a vast desert. But when Man realized his mistake, then God forgave him. That is why there is still some greenery left on the Earth yet.



## 22. The New King

One day, all the animals of the forest gathered together. That day was the election day. The birds and animals of the forest were going to vote and elect a new king. After voting in the morning, the counting was completed in the evening.



The fox was declared to be the new king. His competitor, the jackal had lost the election.

After losing the election, the jackal wanted to teach the fox a lesson. So he started thinking. Then he saw a trap set by some hunters. They had left some meat to attract some animal to the trap.



The jackal went and told the fox that some meat was lying unattended. He could go and eat it. The fox rushed to the spot. He picked the meat and got caught in the trap.

The jackal called all the animals and showed them the fox and said, "If a king cannot control his desires and believes others without thinking, he can never be a good leader."



## 23. Everyone Is Important



The lion king was busy appointing various animals at different posts. The cheetah had been made the army commander because he was quick to think and the fastest runner. The wise elephant had been made the prime minister. Time passed by and other animals also got their posts. In the end only the rabbit, the tortoise and the donkey were left.

At this, the animals started laughing. The zebra said, "The rabbit gets scared easily and the tortoise takes hours to move an inch. The donkey is a fool. They cannot get any post in the royal court."

But the lion king said, "No friends, please don't tease them. All animals have different and unique qualities. The rabbit will be our messenger because he runs fast. The tortoise can hide and spy on the border posts. The loud voice of the donkey can be used as a bugle call. We must learn to respect everyone."

Thus all the animals of the forest learnt a new lesson that day.



## 24. Wealth Spells Trouble

Once a rich jeweller and an iron merchant were walking down a path with their donkeys.

The jeweller had decorated his donkey well. He had a silk cloth on his back. The donkey was carrying gold coins and precious gems in the two large sacks. On the other hand, the iron merchant's donkey was simple. In his sacks he was carrying some iron tools. The jeweller's donkey was feeling very proud about his appearance and precious goods. He walked with a proud gait. The other donkey walked slowly and calmly.

Suddenly a gang of dacoits stopped them. The jeweller and the iron merchant ran away leaving

their donkeys behind. The dacoits

looked through the iron merchant's goods. They

found nothing valuable and let the donkey go.

Then they saw the proud donkey. They took away his costly goods and his silk clothes. When the donkey resisted, they beat him up. The donkey learnt that pride and wealth both invite trouble.





## 25. Look Where You Walk



Once there was a very famous astrologer. Day and night he kept himself busy studying the positions of the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets to predict the future. He used to get so engrossed in looking up at the sky that many a times he did not even know where he was stepping.

One day he was walking as usual with his head up and eyes observing the sky. Suddenly he tripped on a large stone and fell by the roadside. He got stuck in a thorny bush. The thorns started piercing his skin and he was in great pain. Some passers-by helped the astrologer and then asked him how he had fallen into the thorn-bush. When the astrologer told them, one of them commented, "You look up at the sky and can calculate good and bad times and even predict the future. But how come you cannot see what is right here in front of your very eyes? Stop dreaming and start living in the real world."

The astrologer felt ashamed on hearing such comments.



## 26. The Dishonest Bear

Once the wolf said some insulting words to the lion king during a conversation and ran away. In anger the lion king started chasing the wolf to kill him.



As the wolf ran around the forest he saw a bear. He said, "Please save me. The king is chasing me. He will surely kill me. Can you hide me somewhere?"

"Yes, why not?" said the bear. "Come to my cave. You can hide there as long as you want."

The wolf went and hid in his cave. A few moments later, the lion came and asked the bear, "Have you seen the wolf?"

The bear replied, "No, I haven't, Your Majesty." But he signalled the lion to look in the cave. The lion did not understand the signal and went away. Soon the wolf came out of the cave and started to walk away.


"Won't you thank me?" the bear asked.

"What for?" the wolf said. "For lying to the lion or signalling him about me. You are not an honest friend at all."





## 27. Cruel Wolf's Failure

An illustration in the top left corner shows a wolf and several sheep in a dry, yellowish landscape. The wolf is dark-colored and appears to be looking at the sheep. The sheep are white with some brown patches. The background is a simple, stylized representation of a dry environment with some green patches.

Once a very fierce and cruel wolf lived in a forest. One year, there was a severe drought all over the country. There were no rains. So streams and rivers had dried up. There were no grains or fruits growing anywhere. Many animals died due to hunger and thirst. Lack of animals made the wolf very hungry. He soon became so thin, that he looked like an ill animal.

One day, the wolf strayed into a meadow stealthily. The shepherd had left his flock of sheep unattended. He had left some buckets of water for them to drink. The wolf spotted the sheep and thought, "Oh, I am so lucky. Here are many fat sheep. I'll eat them and drink all the water too."

He said aloud, "Friends, I am very thirsty. I cannot move at all. Can one of you bring some water here to me?"

But the cautious sheep replied, "We are not fools. We are sorry for your state of health but we won't come to you to become your lunch."

So the cruel wolf's plan failed due to the alert sheep.



## 28. Thorns And Petals

A small boy was playing in the garden. He saw that the berry plant in the garden was bearing fruits. He kept playing but was soon attracted towards the berries. The boy started picking the berries. The bush had many thorns too. Each time the boy picked a berry, the thorn would prick his tiny, soft fingers. Then a large thorn pierced his thumb. The boy started crying and rushed to his mother in the kitchen. After hearing him out, his mother said, “Son, to achieve something in life, there are other things that you may have to lose. Even after feeling the prick of the thorns you could get to the juicy berries. You were concentrating too much on getting the berries. If

you had observed the thorns before, then you could have held the thorns away with one hand and used the other hand to pick the berries. Then the thorns would not have pricked you.”

After hearing this example, the little boy learnt that one has to face many hurdles to achieve even the smallest success or goal.





## 29. Seeking Contentment



One day Mohan met Sohan. He asked, "Sohan, what's up? You look so happy?"

"Yes," said Sohan. "I got married recently."

"Oh! That's a great news. Congratulations"

"I don't need congratulations. My wife is very dark and ugly. I do not like her at all," Sohan commented.

"Ah! That's indeed a sorry news!" Mohan said sadly.

"Oh! I am not sorry at all because I received a grand mansion as a dowry," Sohan said happily.

"You are indeed lucky!" Mohan commented.

"What good luck! I was very unlucky. The mansion caught fire and was burnt to ashes in an hour." Sohan told Mohan.

"That's really unfortunate. Mohan said in a sad tone.

"No...No !" Sohan said.

"I was happy because when the house caught fire, my wife was in it. She also died in the fire."

Mohan held his head in his hands and thought, "Some people are never content with life, just like my foolish friend Sohan."



### 30. Pride Takes A Fall

On a roadside stood a tall and big banyan tree. It was a home to many squirrels and birds. Just by its side stood the green leafy mango tree. It bore sweet, juicy mangoes. Many people would rest under the shady tree and enjoy its sweet fruits too. No one ever paid much attention to the old banyan tree.

The mango tree had grown proud of its appearance. One day it said to the banyan tree, "See how important I am. Everyone eyes me with greedy looks. People like my tasty fruits. No one asks for you because I am the best!"

"Don't feel so proud," the banyan tree said. "It's just the law of nature. Every tree has its own place in nature."



Next day the king's soldiers came and picked all the mangoes of the mango tree. They picked them so roughly that they broke many branches and leaves too. After they left, the mango tree looked ugly and was in pain. The banyan tree said, "See how your proud beauty has ruined you, while I am standing here safe and sound."



### 31. 'Sweet' Truth



It was the lion king's birthday. All the birds and animals preened themselves as best as they could. Then with gifts, they all left for the king's den. At the den, all the arrangements had been made. The king had invited all the animals and birds for a grand buffet. All were present there for they did not want to offend the lion. At the fixed time the cake was cut. Then everyone sang the birthday song and enjoyed the feast.

After the party, the lion noticed that all had come except the donkey. Then he thought, may be some urgent work had stopped him. The next day when the lion met the donkey, he asked him about it. The donkey replied, "Oh! I don't like attending parties. There is no place like home. So I stayed home and relaxed."

The donkey had told the truth but in an insulting way. In anger the lion banished the donkey from the jungle. Since then the donkey has lived with men and carried their loads because he could not speak the truth sweetly.



## 32. The Clever Merchant

One rainy night, two men entered a guest house to rent rooms. There was only one vacant room. So both of them had to settle to share it. Actually one of them was a thief and the other was a rich diamond merchant. The thief had been following the merchant for sometime. The merchant was carrying a lot of cash and precious diamonds with him. When the guest house owner gave the same room to both of them, the thief's heart filled with joy.



Both of them kept their luggage in the room. A few minutes later, the merchant went out for dinner. The thief searched through the merchant's luggage, but he did not find any diamonds. Soon the merchant returned and both of them went to sleep.



Next morning the thief asked the merchant, "Sir, I am a thief. I was trying to steal your diamonds. But I did not find them in your bag."

The merchant smiled and said, "The diamonds are kept in your bag. I knew that you would never search there."



### 33. The Lion's View Point

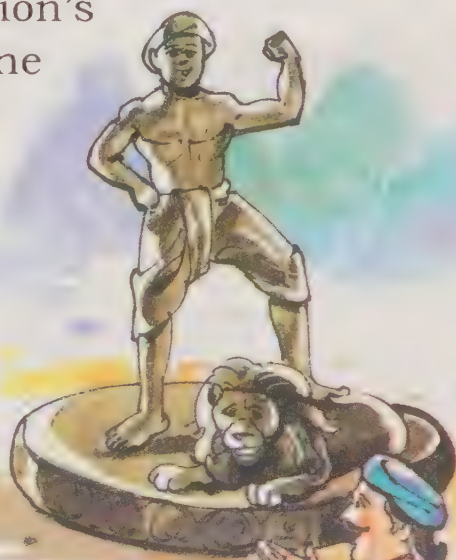


Once a man and a lion were good friends. One day they decided to go and see how a city looked like. The lion lived in the forest near the man's village. One morning, they met outside the village and left to see the city.

On the way, gradually both of them started boasting about himself saying that he was better than the other. Soon they started speaking loudly as they gave example of their feats. Then the discussion warmed up. Soon the heated argument could be heard from far away.

The man and the lion kept arguing. They reached the city square. There was a statue of a man standing with his feet on a lion's chest. The man pointed to the statue and said, "Look, the man is standing with his feet on the lion's chest. This proves men are more powerful."

But the lion said, "You think so only because this statue has been made by a man. If a lion had carved it, then you would have seen reversed positions depicting the lion's point of view."



## 34. The Foolish Dogs

Once there was a rich shepherd. He had a large number of sheep. He trained two fierce dogs to guard his sheep. The dogs were very loyal and worked well at keeping watch.



One night, a wolf saw the sheep in the pen. When he went to get the sheep, the two dogs barked loudly and chased him back into the woods. The wolf thought that he must make some plan to get the dogs away from the sheep. He thought very hard and soon got an idea. He went and tried to make friends with the dogs. He said, "Brother, I see you tied with chains and serving men. Come with me to the woods. You can roam around freely and eat anything you like."



The dogs liked the idea and followed the wolf into the woods. The wolf led both the foolish dogs to his cave. There, the other wolves attacked and killed the dogs.

Then all the wolves went and ate up the sheep to their hearts' content.

Due to their foolishness, the dogs caused a loss to their master and lost their own lives too.



## 35. Do What You Say

Once a poor and lonely old man lived in a small village. Many a times, he would say, "I have no family. It would be better if I was dead."

Every morning, he went to the forest. He would cut some trees and gather the woods in a bundle. Then he would sell it in the market. With his earned money, he would eat some food at a small food stall.

Once, he had high fever. But he still went to work because if he would not go, then he would not get the money for food and medicine. As he was carrying back the bundle of woods, he again said, "I have no one to help me. I wish Yamraj takes me away."

Yamraj, the Lord of Death was passing by. He heard the old man's voice. So he appeared before the old man and asked him to accompany him to Heaven with him. But the old man got scared and said, "Oh! I was only asking for some help." Yamraj helped the old man to carry the bundle and thought with a smile, "He does not believe in doing what he says."



## 36. The Greatest Solution

Once a poor beggar lived in a village. One day he thought of going to meet the village head to beg for money. When the beggar reached there, he came to know that the village head had gone to meet the king to ask for grants for the village. The beggar thought that as the king was helping the village head, so he must be richer than the village head.

So he decided to go and beg from the king.

As he reached the capital city, he saw a large crowd outside a temple. He enquired and found out that the king was visiting the temple. The beggar looked in and saw the king asking God to bless him and to keep his treasury full all the time.

The beggar thought that God was greater than the king and he should beg from him. Then

God appeared before the beggar and said, "The greatest solution to your poverty is hard work. You must start working to earn a living and stop begging."

The beggar heeded God's advice and gave up begging. He worked hard and earned money to lead a good life.





### 37. God Is Merciful



A king had a large orchard. He had got a variety of fruit trees planted there. He employed a skilled gardener to take care of the fruit trees.

Every day, the gardener would pick the ripe and juicy fruits from the various trees and gather them in a basket. Every morning when the royal court was in session, the gardener would go and give the fruits to the king.

One day, the gardener collected some cherries and took them for the king. The king was in a bad mood. When he picked a cherry to taste, it was sour. So he vent out his anger on the gardener. In anger, he threw a cherry at the gardener. It hit him on the forehead but the gardener said, "God is merciful!"

The king enquired, "You must be hurt and angry but you say God is merciful. Why?"

The gardener said, "Your Majesty, I was going to bring pineapples for you today. But I changed my mind. If you had thrown a pineapple at me, I would have been badly hurt. God was merciful for having changed my mind."



## 38. Tit For Tat

A river flew through a forest. Once a hungry lion came to quench his thirst at the river. As he was drinking water, he spotted a donkey drinking water on the other bank. The lion thought, "Donkeys are fools. I must do something to catch this foolish animal for lunch."

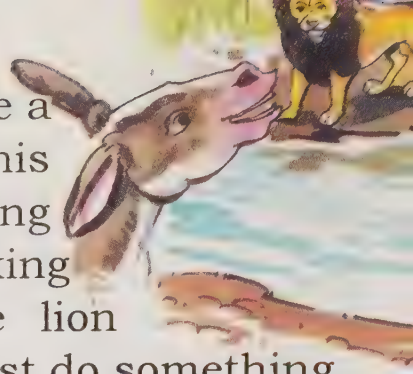
So the lion called out, "Mr. Donkey, are there any jackals on your side of the river bank ? I feel like hearing their song."

"No sir, jackals cannot sing any better than me. Let me sing for you," the foolish donkey said. He lifted his head up to the sky, closed his eyes and started braying. The lion crossed over a bridge and caught the donkey when he was braying.

But the donkey was clever. He, said, "Oh ! do you want to eat me ? I don't mind, but I have heard that good lions pray to God before the lunch."

"Yes, yes, I must pray before lunch," said the lion and closed his eyes to pray. The donkey kicked the lion hard and ran away.

The lion had been paid through the same plan he himself had made.





### 39. The Tenth Friend



Once a group of ten foolish boys went to take a dip in the river. They enjoyed themselves in the water. Then the boys got out, dressed up and walked off.

A few minutes later, one of them said, "Friends, I think we should count and see that all of us are safe. I hope no one of us has drowned in the river."

The other friends agreed. So the boys stood in a row. One of them started counting, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine! Oh! Where is our tenth friend. He is missing!"

Then another boy counted and found one missing. He cried out, "Our tenth friend has drowned. Oh! Please someone help us."

A passerby enquired why the boys were crying. On knowing the reason, he made the boys stand in a row and counted all the ten of them. The boys were overjoyed. The man said, "You were all counting correctly but always forgot to count yourself!"

The boys felt ashamed when they realized their foolish mistake.



## 40. Maria, The Foolish Girl

Maria was a girl, who always forgetting things. She was very careless. She used to lose a lot of toys, pencils, colours and books due to her carelessness.



Maria's mother used to say, "Maria, you are a good and obedient girl but you must learn to be careful. You must realize the value of your belongings."

One day Maria's father brought a beautiful doll for her. Maria loved her doll very much. She played with it the whole day and even slept with the doll. She promised her father that she would not break or lose the doll. After playing with the doll for some days she kept it in a cupboard.



One evening her father decided to take Maria for an outing. Maria rushed into her room. She picked up her small doll, tied it to her back and came out of the house. When her father asked her why she was doing this, she replied, "My doll will be lost if I leave it here. But if I carry it along wherever I go, I will never lose it."

Maria's father laughed out at little Maria's foolishness.



## 41. The Cunning Wolf



Once a hungry wolf searched for food all over the forest. He soon reached the edge of the forest. There a stream was flowing. As the wolf was walking around, he heard a strange sound. He strained his ear to hear better. He heard a lamb's bleating. The wolf's heart filled with hope that may be he could have a lamb for lunch and drink the sweet stream water later.

Soon he spotted a lamb grazing on a small sloping hill. But when the wolf tried to climb the hill, he slipped and fell. Then to entice the lamb, he said, "What are you doing on this high hill? You will fall into the deep gorge. Get down here to the meadow to graze the green grass. You can drink the sweet cool stream water too."



But the clever lamb knew about the wolf's nature. So he called back, "No, Mr. Wolf, I am alright here. There is enough grass for me on the hill."

The wolf went away with a heavy heart. He realized that cleverness was mightier than cunningness.



## 42. The Value of Position

Once a shepherd left his goat to roam free in his house and went away.

The goat loved the freedom. She explored the whole house. She went into the kitchen and ate some bread and curds kept there. Then she went into the cool and shady backyard and sat on the swing hung there. She went into the bedroom and relaxed on the soft bed. Then the goat ran up the stairs to the roof of the house. She liked the soft breeze blowing and the view from the top of the house was beautiful.

Suddenly the goat started shaking with fear. Her teeth chattered. Actually she had seen a wolf standing near the gate. He could not enter the house because the shepherd had kept the gate locked.

When the goat realized that, she laughed at the wolf and forgot all fears.

The wolf said loudly, "Dear goat, you are laughing because you are at a higher position than I. I cannot come up to eat you. It is the value of the position you are in and not your courage that is making you fearless."

And then the wolf went away.





### 43. Worthless Obligations



A fat buffalo was busy grazing in a field. She grazed for hours till her stomach was full. Then she went to a nearby stream and drank some water. She started feeling lazy due to a full stomach. So the buffalo thought of taking a nap. She went and settled down under a shady peepal tree. Soon the buffalo was dozing.

A crow had flown in from a nearby village. He was feeling very tired and hungry. Soon he found a piece of bread, which he quickly ate up. Then he went and settled on the buffalo's back. The crow sat and rested on the buffalo's back for a few hours. Then the buffalo woke up. The crow flew down in front of the buffalo and said, "Madam, I've been resting on your back for hours. I want to thank you for your kindness."

"You don't need to thank me as I never even felt your weight. I don't know when you came or when you got off. Do not be obliged for things or events which do not matter much."

With these words, the buffalo got up and went away. The crow learnt a good lesson for life.



## 44. The Caged Monkey

Once there was a poor man. He owned a monkey. The monkey used to display a variety of tricks. He worked hard the whole day. The people who watched him would throw coins for him. He would collect them and gave to his master.



Once, the master took the monkey to the zoo. There he saw a caged monkey. People were feeding him fruits and biscuits. The monkey thought, "This caged monkey is lucky. He does not need to work hard to get food. He is having free food here."

That night, he went to live in the zoo's cage. He loved the rest and the free food for a few days. Then he started getting bored. He had to wait for the visitors who would come to see him in the cage.

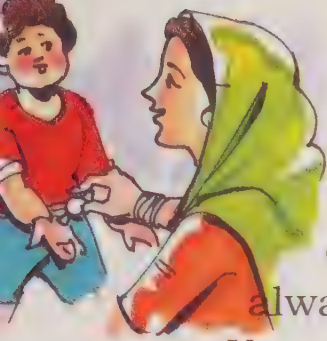
After a few weeks, the monkey got fed up of such a life. He ran away from the zoo and came back to his master who welcomed him warmly.

The monkey realized that it is hard to earn a living but sitting idle can be even more hard and dangerous.





## 45. Aman Learns A Lesson



Aman was a good and obedient boy. His parents loved him very much. But Aman had one bad habit. He ate a lot of sweets and chocolates. His mother always told him, "Aman, don't eat so many sweets. You will get toothaches."

His mother used to keep all the sweets in a glass jar. It had a narrow mouth and a tight lid on it.

One day when his mother went to the market, Aman saw that his father was asleep. So he tiptoed to the kitchen and got the sweet jar. With great effort, he opened the tight lid and put his hand in the narrow mouth. Aman picked a fist full of sweets. But when he tried to pull his hand out, it got stuck in the jar.

Aman's father was awake and watching. He said to Aman, "You have picked up too many sweets in your fist. It's more than your little hand can keep. Your fist cannot come out of the jar. Let go of the sweets and pick only one sweet in your two fingers and you can pull your hand out easily. Always take as much as you can handle."



Aman pulled out his hand from the jar easily and thus learnt a lesson.

## 46. The Clever Mouse

A small mouse was feeling mischievous. He was in a jolly mood. He jumped around everywhere. Just then, he saw a big bull sleeping under a tree. The bull looked huge and had sharp and long horns. His large nostrils were opening and closing with every breath he took in and let out.



The mouse saw the bull breathing. He heard the loud snorts that were coming from his nostrils. The mouse went to the bull and shut his nostrils. The bull was woken up when he could not breathe. He got up and saw the mouse running away. The bull was very angry. He thought of teaching a lesson to the mouse. He chased the mouse to punish him.

The tiny mouse was quick on his feet. He ran fast even as the huge bull chased him. Then the mouse ran into a hole in a wall. The bull crashed his head into the wall and started bleeding. The wall crashed from a side but still the mouse did not emerge from the hole.



The bull understood that, one must not think that a small enemy is weak. Strength and size is not the winner all the time.





## 47.Snake Among The Frogs

Once a large number of frogs lived happily in a well. One day, two frogs got involved into a fierce fight. The other frogs were supporting each of them separately. And this way, two groups of the frogs were formed, each group supporting one frog. Soon the feud grew and the hatred spread among all the frogs of the two groups. They were always trying to demean the frog members of the other group.

One day, one group of frogs went to a snake and said, "In our well, some frogs have become our enemies. Please come to live in our well and eat up all of them. So that you will get food there and we will get rid of our enemies."

The snake agreed to stay in their well. Days went by and the snake started to eat three frogs of the enemy group everyday.

Soon all the frogs of that group got killed. Then the other group's frog leader asked the snake to leave the well as the job was done. But the snake was used to get the free food now. So he refused to leave the well. He stayed there and ate up all the other frogs too. Thus due to a silly fight all the frogs lost their lives.



## 48. Different Ways

Once an aged man was going to attend a religious gathering. A young man left his home to go and meet his fiancée. As they went on their way, their paths led them to the same road. They met on the road. Soon, both the travellers began to talk and they became very friendly with each other.



The aged man said to the young one, “Why don’t you come with me to attend the religious gathering? You will learn about religious teachings too.”

“No, thank you. I think you should come with me to meet my beautiful fiancée. You can also have a grand lunch with us.”

But the aged man refused and soon both the friends went on their different ways. But at



the religious gathering, the aged man kept thinking of the beautiful woman he could have met. While the young man kept wandering about the religious teachings he could have heard of.

So it’s truly said that a person may not change himself but always thinks for the things, the other person possesses.



## 49. The Thankful Eagle



One day in the forest, a woodcutter heard a strange sound. A bird catcher had spread some grains and a net under a tree. Unluckily an eagle had got caught in that net and was calling for help. The woodcutter ran and freed the eagle. The eagle thanked the woodcutter and flew away.

After some days, once the woodcutter was sitting on a small mound and having his lunch. Some bushes and trees were giving shade to him. Suddenly the same eagle came and swooped at his food. The woodcutter leapt to save his lunch. But he lost his balance and rolled down the mound.

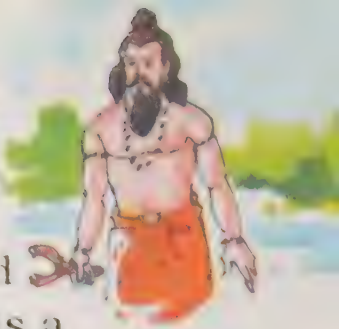
The woodcutter recognized immediately that it was the same eagle he had helped. He felt very angry, but the eagle said, "Sir, a poisonous snake was just behind you to bite you, when you were having the food. So I saved your life from the poisonous snake as you had saved me from the net. I have thanked you this way"

Then the woodcutter saw the snake where he had been sitting and thanked the eagle.



## 50. The Hermit's Powers

Once a hermit lived in a forest. He meditated for many years. Gods were so happy with his devotion that they gave him various powers, to be used when needed. Initially the hermit was a humble person but as he gained powers, he became very proud of himself.



One day he had to go to a nearby city for some work. So the hermit left the forest. He walked a while and soon reached the bank of a river. He looked around and saw a boat and boatman. He was about to hire the boat to cross the river when he saw a sage meditating on the other bank. The hermit tried to show off and used his power to walk across over the river surface. Then he went to the sage and said, "Did you see, how I used my power to walk on water? Can you do this?"



"Yes, of course, I can. But I think you wasted your precious power here. You could have crossed the river by simply paying rupees fifty to the boatman."

Though the proud hermit felt insulted but he realized that pride always has negative results.



## 51. The Hunter's Dog



Once a hunter went to the forest to hunt some rabbits. His fierce faithful dog accompanied him. They had both gone on such hunting trips together many a times.

As they passed by a clearing, they saw that a snake and a mongoose were having a fierce fight.

The hunter and his dog watched the bloody fight for a few minutes. Sometimes, the poisonous snake would raise his head and strike at the mongoose. At other times, the mongoose would bite the snake. As the fight grew fierce, the hunter thought of stopping it. So he aimed his gun and shot the mongoose dead.

Then the hunter sent his dog to get the dead mongoose. The dog obeyed his master and ran to the spot.

The mongoose's bloody and motionless body lay on the ground. Just as the dog picked the dead mongoose in his mouth, he let out a painful yelp. The poisonous snake had bit and killed the dog.

The regretful hunter thought, "I was wrong to kill the mongoose. The enemy was the snake not the mongoose."



## 52. The Merchant's Witness

Once a merchant arrived in a village for trade. He stopped a farmer and asked the way to an inn.

The farmer directed him to the inn and went on his way. The merchant checked into the inn. He tied his horse in the inn's stable and went to sleep.

In the morning, the merchant went to the stable. But the innkeeper claimed, "My stable gave birth to this horse. It is my mine."

The merchant was shocked to hear such a lie. They started an argument. Both of them went to court for justice. For the merchant's identification, the merchant called the farmer as witness, but the

farmer did not come. But at the final moment, the farmer came and said, "Sir, I am late because I was sowing boiled wheat in my fields."

The judge laughed, "How can boiled wheat bear any grains?"

"Why not, sir. If a stable can give birth to a horse then everything else is possible."

The judge realised the truth and punished the innkeeper.





## 53. The Pet Dog



Once a man had a pet dog. The faithful and strong dog used to guard the master's factory at night. The master loved him, fed him well and took him out for walks. One unlucky day, he was hit by a car. One of his hind legs was severely injured. The doctors could not heal the injury. Now the poor dog had to limp around all the time. The dog's master thought that a lame dog would not be a good guard. So he stopped loving the poor dog.

One day, the dog smelt some ginger in the air. He sniffed around and saw a ginger plant growing in the factory's ground. The master saw the dog sniffing the ginger plant. He checked and found out that the soil near the plant was excellent for growing ginger plants. He then planted plenty of ginger plants and made a huge profit.

Then the master realized that a physical handicap does not make anyone useless. He started loving and caring for his dog once again.



## 54. The Golden Idol

Once a very rich man came into a big city, to find some chances to expand his business. He went around the markets and business centres of the city to find out about new business.



Then as he was wandering around, he reached at the outskirts of the city where the city ended and the villages began. There were some ruins of ancient temples. As he sat down to rest, he noticed something shining in the ruins. He quickly went there and removed the stones and rocks and found a large golden idol of a lion. He thought, Oh! I am so lucky. God had given me a chance to become more wealthier. This idol is made of solid gold. Should I take this idol home or not ?”



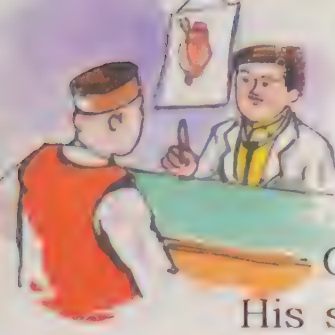
Then again he thought, “But what is the use of this idol?

What if the lion’s face scares me at night? I think I should send my servants to fetch it and I will watch it only from a safe distance.”

So the man walked away. He was like many other rich people who did not know how to utilise their wealth and were also afraid to spend their money.



## 55.The Art Of Telling-Truth



A rich merchant was a heart patient. The doctor had instructed all that he should not be alarmed at any cost.

Once the merchant was in another city.

His servant came from his town and said,

“Sir, I am sorry our dog is dead.”

“How did he die ?” the merchant asked.

“He ate a lot of horse meat.”

“You mean that my horse is dead !”

“Sir, all the horses in our stable are dead due to starvation.”

“Didn't the servants feed them ?”

“How could they, when they were hungry themselves ?”

“Why, didn't my wife give them their daily allowances ?” the merchant asked in a worried tone.

“How could she have survived without food ?” the servant commented.

“But I had appointed a cook for her. Don't tell me that she is dead too ?”

“Sir, last night the kitchen stove burst and the house caught fire. Everyone in the house were burnt to death.”

Thus the servant told the truth without shocking his master.



## 56. The Fox And The Snake

Once a fox lived in a forest. One fine morning, he was roaming around the forest and he was feeling bored.

As he was passing by, he saw a huge, thick and long snake lying under some trees. His long body stretched from one corner of the path to the other. The fox got much impressed by the snake's big size. He thought, "It's such a large snake! "It must eat a lot to be so big. I wish I will be as large and long as this snake. I too must lie on the ground and stretch my body. If I crawl on the rough ground and stretch my body end to end, I will surely become as long as him. I must try this at once."

So the fox lay down on the path by the snake's side and started stretching his body. He tried hard but his bones and muscles ached,

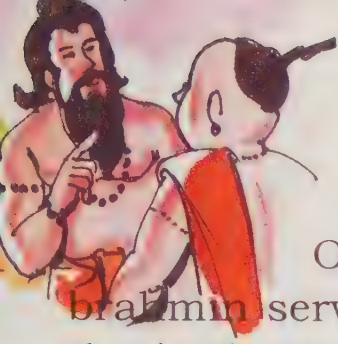
yet he did not grow long enough. At last he stretched so hard that his stomach burst open and he died on the spot.

The poor fox did not know that one can be equal to one's own ilk. No one must compare oneself with others who are more stronger or more larger than they are.





## 57. The Brahmin's Servant



Once a lazy brahmin had a lot of fertile land. But he never sowed anything in it, so soon it became barren.

Once a hermit visited the brahmin. The brahmin served the hermit well. The hermit gave the brahmin a magical chant. After the hermit's departure, the brahmin chanted the magic chant. Immediately a giant appeared and said, "Give me work, master. If I do not work, I feel hungry and in hunger, I can eat everything around me."

The scared brahmin quickly instructed the giant to work in the field to grow some foodgrains. The giant completed the task quickly. Then the brahmin gave him many orders and the giant did everything quickly.

Now the brahmin had no more work to give to the giant. But he feared that the giant would kill him, so he ordered the giant to straighten his dog's tail. The giant got to work but try as he might he could not do this.

So he got fed up and ran away.

The brahmin learnt that greed can sometimes harm you rather than benefit you.



## 58. Blame

One day a man went for a walk on the beach. He saw that a ship full of passengers struck a rock and capsized in the sea. The ship went under water and all the people on board fell into the sea. As they did not know how to swim, they drowned one by one. The man watched all this from the shore but could not do anything to help the people. In the evening, he narrated the sad event of the ship's drowning to his friends. Everyone felt sorry for the dead people. The man said, "God has not been just. To kill one sinner aboard the ship he killed so many other innocent people."



As he was saying this, he felt a pinch on his feet. He looked down. A red ant was biting his toe. Many other red ants were near his feet. In anger, he started stamping his feet to crush the red ants.



God appeared at the spot and said, "See, how you are killing other innocent ants to kill the one which bit you. You were blaming me for my unjust act. Look at your own actions before blaming me for anything." The man felt ashamed as he realized his mistake.



## 59. The Coward's Ability



Once a coward lived in a village. Even the smallest sound would scare him. One day the royal messenger announced in the village "The king has asked every young man of the kingdom to join the royal army. Its an order. Every body must follow it."

The coward was also forced to follow the royal order. So he too left for the city to join the royal army.

On the way the coward passed by a large and tall tree. Many crows were sitting on it and making a lot of noise. Loud noise of the crows scared the coward. He stopped due to fear. After standing for a few moments, he moved forward to go on but the crows again started to make a noise. Once again, the coward's mouth went dry with fear. He shivered in fright and in a shaky voice he cried, "Yes!

Go on, make as much noise as you want to. But I know you still cannot eat me up!"

The coward was so scared that he thought the crows would eat him up. Actually he did not have the ability to join the royal army. A man must do only the task for which he is fit.



## 60. The Musical Wolf

A flock of sheep were grazing in a meadow by the edge of a forest. Soon it was evening and they started to move for their home. As the flock went on, a small lamb lagged behind. A wolf saw the lamb from a distance and thought, "Ah ! It's my dinner time. I'll go and get that lamb for dinner."



So the wolf ran and caught the lamb. Just when he was about to eat it, the lamb said, "I don't mind if you eat me up. But I think I have a right to have one last wish."

"Yes, what is it?" the wolf asked.

"I want you to play a flute and I will dance. When I fall down after I get tired, you can eat me up."

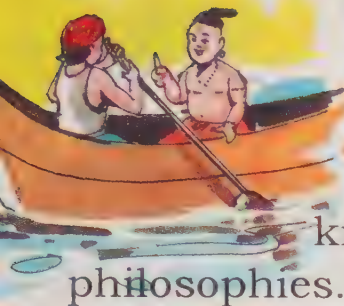
The wolf agreed to this. He began playing the flute and the lamb began dancing. Some

shepherd dogs heard the flute and came to the spot. They saw the lamb near the wolf and attacked the wolf. The wolf ran off to save his life and thought, "What a fool I was to think that a hunter like me could be a musician."





## 61. Do You Know Swimming?



Once a miser priest used to keep teasing people, "Oh ! you don't know how to do this task properly. You know nothing about religion and life's philosophies. So your life is worthless."

One day the priest had to cross a river to go to another village. He saw a boat and sat in it. The boatman asked the priest to pay him to row him across. The priest said, "You ask me for money! On the way I will give you the precious treasures of knowledge. Do you know about Tulsi Das ? and about Ramayana....?"

The priest kept boasting but did not want to pay any money. The boatman got fed up of his talks and thought of teaching him a lesson.

When the boat was in the middle of the river, the boatman rocked the boat and the priest fell into the river water. He started drowning. The boatmen asked, "Oh ! Don't you know how to swim? You seem to know everything else."

Then the kind boatman rescued the priest. Then the priest realized that everyone has knowledge of his own job only.



## 62. Dr. Croaky

One day a frog left the pond of the village and hopped to a lake in a nearby forest. He went to the forest to make his new home there. When he reached there he did not see anyone around. He wanted to meet everyone and make new friends. So the frog climbed a high rock by the lake and said, "Friends, please come here. I am new here. I want to meet all of you. I have come from the village."



Many animals heard his voice and came to the lake. The deer, the tortoise, the duck, the rabbit, the birds, the squirrel, the butterfly and the fox. The frog said, "Let me introduce myself. I am Dr. Croaky. I am a doctor who can cure any ailment that you might be suffering from. I have medicines for all animals' diseases. You can come to meet me anytime."



Hearing this, the fox said, "If you can cure everyone then why haven't you cured your lame legs? See how you keep hopping around all the time."

All the animals and birds laughed at the frog. The frog went red with shame for his lie had been detected.



## 63. Final Punishment



Once a rich and greedy man fell seriously ill. He called many learned doctors to treat him but no one could give him proper medicines to cure his ailment. In desperation, the ill man prayed to the God, "God, if you save me from death due to this illness, I will sacrifice a hundred bulls at your altar."

God heard his prayers and cured him. Once the rich man regained his health, his greed overcame him. So, to save his money, he had a hundred tiny idols of bulls made and offered them to the temple fire and said, "God please accept my gift of thanks."

God grew angry that the man had broken his promise and had not offered live bulls to him. So God decided to punish him. God appeared in his dream and said, "Go to the seashore in the morning. You will get a hundred gold coins for yourself."

The greedy man went to the seashore next happily. There a ship of pirates had arrived. The pirates imprisoned the greedy man. They went to another country and sold him as a slave. So they got a hundred gold coins for him.



## 64. The Goat's Advise

Once a villager owned a donkey and a goat. He used the donkey to carry loads of articles from the village to the city, where he would roam around the whole day selling his articles. Sometimes he would lend his donkey to others on hire when they needed it. As the donkey worked hard the whole day, the villager used to feed the donkey more food than he gave to the goat.



The goat felt jealous of the donkey. He advised the donkey, "You work all day long and hardly get any rest. You must act that you are ill and fall down unconscious. This way, you'll get rest for a few days."

The donkey agreed to this and acted as if he was ill. The villager called the doctor. The doctor said, "Your donkey has a strange illness. To cure him, you must

feed him the soup made of a goat's lungs."

The villager at once killed the goat and cooked soup out of his lungs. Then he fed the soup to the donkey.

The goat had tried to harm the donkey out of jealousy but he had been killed for his evil nature.





## 65. Self - Help



Once a rich merchant left his city to go to another country for trade. He went aboard a large ship. He was carrying trunks full of gold coins and precious gems.

One day a storm began. Huge waves rose in the sea waters. They rocked the ship from side to side. People started screaming with fright. The captain and the crew were trying their best not to let the ship drown. A few hours later, the storm stopped but the ship had a hole in its bottom. Water started seeping into the ship. People took the life boats and got off the drowning ship. Some jumped into the sea to swim ashore. While others held on to pieces of wood to stay afloat. The merchant started praying, "God please save my life. If I stay alive I will offer a lot of gold to you."

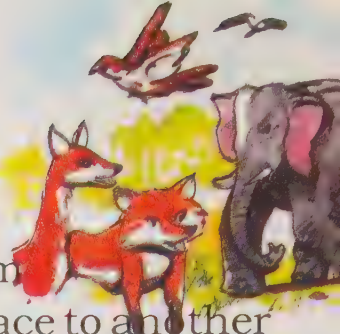
A man went to the merchant and said, "Don't pray to God. Try to jump out and swim ashore. Remember God helps those who help themselves."

But the merchant did not listen. He stayed on the ship and kept praying. Soon the ship drowned and the merchant went down with it.



## 66. God And Man

God created animals. Some animals could run very fast. To some, he gave unusual size and strength. He made some flying creatures and we call them birds. These birds could fly from one place to another in search of food. Some animals became crawlers while others were given the power to become excellent swimmers.



God created man at the end of his creations. He made him strong enough to take care of himself and the animals around him. But man asked God, “God, you have given various powers to other creatures. But I have no special powers or quality like them. Why are you partial to me?”

God smiled and said, “O man, the power I have given you is the most precious of all. It is the power of speech. You are using this power right now to express your wish to me. No other creature has this power. What more do you want me to give you?”

Man realized that speech was indeed the greatest gift of God to man. He understood that we should be happy with what we have and not be sad for what we do not have.







## 67.Character Remain Same

Once a cat saw a smart young boy. The cat fell in love with him. She wished that she could marry him. But how could a cat marry a boy. So she prayed to God, "Please do something to help me marry that boy."

Immediately God turned the cat into a beautiful girl. The boy saw the girl and fell in love with her. He proposed to her and soon they got married.

After all the ceremonies were over, the boy and the girl were alone in their bed chamber. The God decided to test whether the cat which he had turned into a girl has changed her habits or not. So he let a mouse loose in the bed chamber. Soon the girl smelt the mouse and saw it too. She immediately got up and chased the mouse till she caught it.

God was sad at this event. He turned the girl back into a cat and thought, "How could I forget that changing one's body or clothes do not necessarily bring a change in his habits or characters. People stay the way they are."



## 68. Hawk And Nightingale

On a pleasant evening in spring, the breeze was blowing gently. The cool weather made a nightingale very happy. She flew to a high branch of a tree and sat on it. As the breeze blew, her heart filled with joy and soon she began singing. Her sweet song resounded all around. All the birds and animals around the tree were busy enjoying her sweet song.



A hungry hawk was flying past. He heard the song and looked around. He spotted the nightingale, flew down and caught her in his claws. But the nightingale said, "What is the use of eating a small bird like me? Let me go. A strong and able hunter can surely get a larger prey sometime later."



The hawk said, "Do you think I am a fool? I cannot let go of food when I am hungry. There is no surety that I will get some other prey. Why should I let go of a golden chance now, thinking of what I might get tomorrow?"

So the intelligent hawk quickly ate up the little bird and flew away.





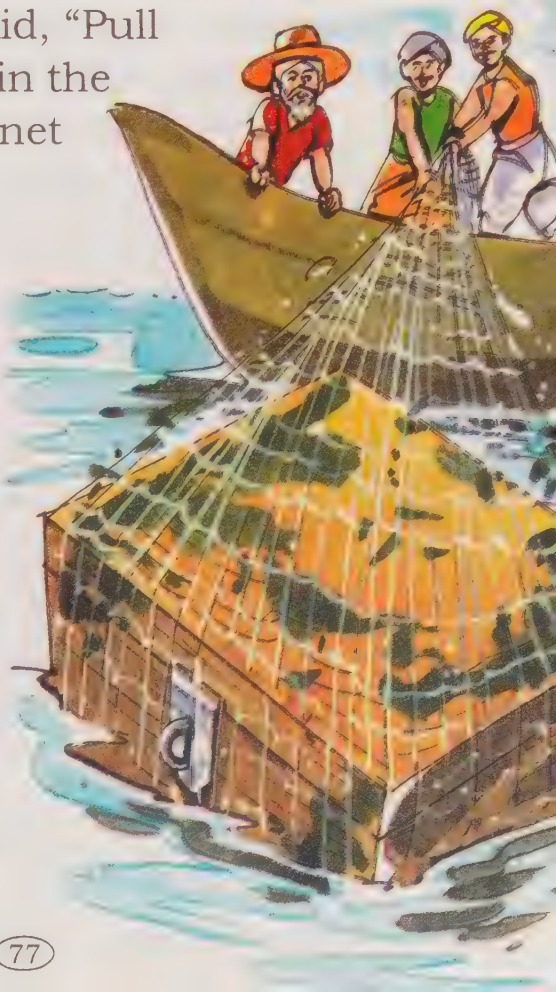
## 69. Fruits Of Labour

Once a group of fishermen went out to sea. Their leader was an old, intelligent and wise fisherman. He always guided them well.

At sea, the fishermen spread their large net in water. When they pulled out the net, it was empty. This happened about two or three times and the fishermen lost heart, but their leader advised them to keep trying.

Once again, the fishermen threw in the net. It felt heavy when they pulled it out. But some small fish, logs from a wreckage and seaweeds were all that it had. They were about to sink the net back into water but the old fisherman said, "Pull out the net and empty it in the boat. Throw the empty net and try once again."

When the fishermen emptied the net in the boat, they found a box in it. It had gold coins and gems in it. The leader divided it equally among all the fishermen and everyone went home happily. Its truly said that one must not leave any work unfinished if one wants to enjoy the fruits of labour.



## 70. The Clever Jester

Once a jester worked in a royal court. The king who ruled the kingdom respected the jester a lot. The jester was not only good at cracking jokes but was clever enough to help the king in some official matters. Many a times the jester would make the king the butt of his joke.



One day he joked about the king as usual but the king felt insulted by it and grew very angry. In anger he said, "Guards, seize this man. He is making fun of me, the king of this country! Put him in prison. He will be hanged three days from now."

Three days later, the jester was brought to court. The king asked, "You will be hanged an hour later. Choose how you want to die? It will be your last wish."



The clever jester replied, "Your Majesty, I choose to die of old age."

"Ha!..Ha!..Ha!" After understanding the jester's witty remark, the king laughed loudly. By then his anger had subsided so he forgave the jester. The jester proved that wit is stronger than even the strongest man on Earth.



## 71. The Foolish Frog

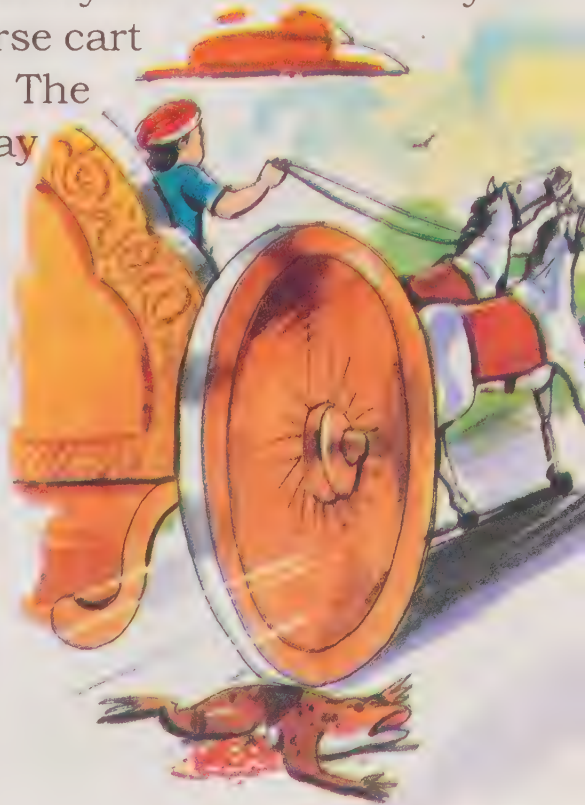


Once there were two frog friends. As they grew up, one of the frogs made his home in the rocks and shrubs that grew by the lake in the forest. But the second frog explored the surroundings for a better place to live in. Soon he found a place just by the edge of a road that ran through the forest. A few months later, the first frog said, "Why don't you come and stay with me near the lake? Many chariots and carts pass on the road. What if someone runs over and killed you?"

"Oh ! Don't worry about me. I am used to the carts now. I know how to avoid them and I don't like the boring lake."

So the second frog stayed by the road. One day as luck would have it, a horse cart came down the road. The frog could not hop away from the road in time so he was crushed under the cart's wheel.

The first frog felt sorry. He thought, "One should always be prepared for the worst time. My friend lost his life because he was overconfident. He thought he would never be harmed on the road."



## 72. The Proud Butterfly

Once a beautiful, shiny and colourful butterfly was flitting from one flower to another. She saw a baby elephant coming down the path. She flew to him and sat on his ear. The elephant asked, "Who are you? Where are you going?"

The butterfly proudly replied, "I am the most beautiful of all the butterflies. You are ugly and fat. Your body is heavy while I am delicate and light. People are jealous of my colourful wings. I can fly anywhere with these wings."

The elephant calmly said, "I am glad to meet you."

The butterfly went on, "There is no comparison between us. You have four legs but I have six. You have a trunk and I have something like that too but I use it to suck nectar from the flowers. You cannot do that."

Just then a strong wind blew and the butterfly could not keep her balance. She cried for help as she was flown away in the wind. But the elephant stood firmly on ground and thought, "I can see how pride has a fall."





### 73. The Fox's Revenge



Once a hungry fox entered a village. He went near a field with large juicy pumpkins. He looked around and saw no one around. So he quickly bit into a pumpkin. Just as he finished eating it, the farmer whose field it was, rushed to him and said, "How dare you eat my pumpkin?"

"Please sir, I was hungry and I ate just one of them."

But the angry farmer took a piece of cloth and dipped it in kerosene oil. Then he tied the oily cloth around the fox's tail and lit a match to it. The fox's tail was on fire and he was in pain. Now the fox was angry, "You are punishing me for just one pumpkin. Now it's my time to take revenge."

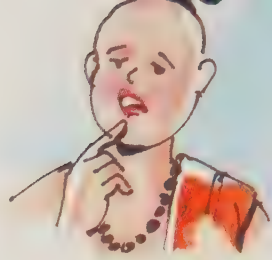
The fox went to the wheat field that belonged to the same farmer. The ripe wheat was standing to be harvested. The fox jumped around the field with his burning tail. Immediately the crops caught fire and soon turned to ashes.

The farmer thought, "If I had forgiven the fox's small sin, he would not have caused such a huge damage to me."



## 74. The Only Wish

Once a very scholarly brahmin lived in a city. He had a beautiful house, a loving wife, a lot of wealth and servants. But still he was always sad.



The reason was that he had no child. He conducted many prayers to appease the God to bless him with a son. But his wish was not fulfilled.

Once the brahmin left the city and went into the forest. He meditated for many months. At last, God appeared and said, "O devotee, what do you want?"

"O God, all I want is a son," the brahmin said.

But God said, "I cannot grant you a son. You have meditated for long. You can ask for anything else?"

"No, I only want a son," brahmin insisted stubbornly.

God said, "I grant you a son but remember anything begotten by force or stubbornness always brings pain and sorrow."

Soon the brahmin had a son. But the boy grew into a disobedient, cheating, gambling and lying young man. And the brahmin remembered that God's words had come true.





## 75. Justice

Once a cruel man killed a rich merchant. After the killing, as he was trying to escape from the dead merchant's house, he was seen by the dead merchant's family members. They started shouting and soon a huge crowd started chasing the murderer. While running the murderer found some ruins and hid in it all night. Next morning as he got out of the ruins, someone recognised him and he was chased once again. So the murderer ran and soon left the city.

Soon he reached a river. Suddenly a wolf came to attack him. Hence the murderer climbed up a tree. A while later, he heard the rustle of leaves. He turned to see a large cobra in the branches of the tree. It approached the murderer and was about to strike him. To save himself, the murderer jumped into the river. The crocodiles of the river tore his body to pieces.

So it's true that nature always serves justice. The murderer had ended someone's life so nature ended his life.



## 76. The Camel's Lesson

A camel lived in a forest. He had a very bad habit of teasing or insulting other animals for their appearance. He would tease the elephant and say, "Oh ! How fat and ugly you look. God has given you two tails one in the back and one in the front."



To the rhinoceros, he would comment, "All animals have two horns and you are queer-looking with just one horn on your nose."

When he would meet the zebra, he would always comment, "Ah! Here you are with crooked black lines all over you. What is the use of them anyway?"

All the animals felt bad at this. One day, a frank monkey met the camel and said,

"Oh! Mr. Camel! Where are you going with that ugly hunch on your back? Look at your long and crooked neck on such a small body. What do you do with such a long neck?"



The camel felt hurt at such words. He learnt a lesson. Now he knew how the others felt at his comments. So he stopped that bad habit from that day itself.



## 77. Evil Has An Evil End



Once there was a poor and old hermit. The villagers used to give him alms everyday. The hermit had the habit of sharing his food with the beggars or needy people.

Once he reached an old woman's house. She was a cruel woman and a miser. On asking for alms, she gave some leftover food to the hermit. The next day the hermit went to her house for food once again. She gave it with a heavy heart. On seeing the hermit on the third day the old woman got irritated. She mixed poison in rice and gave it to him.

The hermit reached his hut and was about to eat. Just then a young man came and said, "I am hungry. Can you feed me something?"

The hermit gave all the rice to him. The young man ate the poisoned rice and to the hermit's surprise he died instantly. The young man was the old woman's son and had returned after a long journey of many days.

So the evil woman's plan resulted in loss of her only son.



## 78. The Correct Solution

Once a king wanted to find a wise man to be his Prime Minister. So according to a plan, he made a riddle.

“A man has a boat to cross the river.

Only two can go in the boat at one time. The man has to take a lion, a goat and a bundle of grass to the other bank so that in a way no one will eat the other. What will he do ?”

No one in the kingdom could give the answer. Then a young man went to the king and said, “Your Majesty, the man will take the goat to the other bank. Then he will go to get the lion. He will bring the lion to the other bank and take back the goat

with him. Then he will take the grass to the lion because lion

won't eat the grass. He will row back to get the goat to the other bank.”

The king was amazed by his cleverness because he had never let the grass and the goat or the lion and the goat to be together.

So the king was sure of his intelligence and appointed him as the Prime Minister.





## 79. Ramu's Khichdi



Once Ramu felt very ill. The doctor asked him to eat khichdi (an Indian dish). Ramu had a bad memory. To remember this, he kept reciting khichdi... khichdi... khichdi on the way home. But soon he forgot the word and started saying khachidi (means 'eat bird')

As he passed by a field, a farmer shouted and beat him. "You say khachidi ! So the birds may eat my grains. Now say udchidi (means 'fly bird')."

Now Ramu went on reciting Udchidi... Udchidi. A bird catcher had spread his net to catch birds. He slapped him. "Don't say udchidi. The birds will fly away. Say phanschidi (means 'get caught bird')."

He now recited phanschidi... phanschidi... as he walked on. A gang of thieves passed him by. They shouted at Ramu and beat him up mercilessly and said, "You wanted us to get caught. You are saying phanschidi. Go away from here."

So due to a poor memory Ramu made a mistake and was beaten so many times.



## 80.What's In A Name?

Once a boy named Papak studied in a gurukul. Papak means 'sinner'. So he wanted to change his name. His teacher asked him to go and look for a new name.



On the way, he met a poor sweeper. Her name was Dhana Lakshmi which, means 'Goddess of Wealth'. Then he went on and soon met a thief. His name was Dharam Das, that is 'one who does good deeds.'

Then he met an illiterate boy whose name was Vidhya Das which means 'Disciple of knowledge.'

Papak walked on and reached a village. He walked on and passed by a cremation ground. Some people were gathered there. He enquired and found out that

a man had died. His name was Amar Singh which meant 'immortal lion'.



Then Papak thought, "Oh! He died even though he was called amar."

A man standing nearby said, "What's in a name? A name is merely used to address you. It's what you do, your deeds and actions that counts. That is what makes your character and not the name you have."



## 81. Never Blame God



Once, there was a large forest. A variety of trees and plants grew there. There were oak, seesham, walnut, apple, neem and peepal trees.

Among them, there was one tree which had a crooked trunk. Its branches were also crooked and grew haywire. It had no colourful flowers or juicy fruits and its leaves were dull and limp. The other trees used to tease him, "Hello, you ugly fellow, how do you feel today?"

The poor tree would think, "Why did God make me ugly? Why can't I be like the other healthy trees?"

One day, a woodcutter came to the forest. He said, "What a crooked and ugly tree.

It's no use for me. Let me cut down the trunks of these straight trees."

So all the trees were cut down other than the crooked tree. Then the crooked tree thought, "I now feel that whatever God does, he has a reason behind it. We must not blame God for all troubles. My ugliness saved my life after all."



## 82.The Messenger Donkey

Once a jackal was a lion's minister. Everyday the jackal would inform the lion about the prey he might see anywhere. The lion would hunt, eat and leave some share of the animal's body for the jackal. The two of them were living blissfully.

Once the lion fell ill. For many days, he could not even get out of his den. He said to the jackal, "I am ill and hungry because I have not eaten for the past few days. Get me some food or else I'll eat you up."

The jackal looked all over the jungle for the prey and at last spotted a grazing donkey. He went and said to him, "Dear donkey, I've been searching for you so long. The forest king wants to make you his messenger."

"Is that so ! Let's go to meet him," said the eager donkey.

The jackal led the donkey to the lion's den. There the lion pounced on him and killed him in a moment. The lion and the jackal enjoyed their feast. The poor donkey forgot that greed and haste often leads to a fall.







## 83. The Golden Chance

Once the people said to the king, “Your Majesty, nowadays a cheat has been cheating and stealing from us. Please protect us from him.”

The king asked his spies to look for the cheat. He was soon caught and brought to the court. But the clever cheat pleaded with tears that he would never cheat again and he would become an honest man now. The king trusted the cheat and forgave him.

The cheat went away but he did not change his habit of cheating. Just outside the city, he met a rich merchant. He made him unconscious and threw him in a well. He took his money but while running, the cheat slipped and fell. His head struck a stone and he became unconscious.

Some spies saw him. They rescued the merchant and then took the cheat back to the king. The cheat asked for forgiveness again. But king said, “I forgave you once to help you change. It was a golden chance. But now you will be sentenced to death.”



## 84. The Old Woman's Hut

Once there was a great king named Vikramaditya. One day he saw a beautiful place by the side of a river. He ordered his Prime Minister to build a large and beautiful palace there. The Prime Minister contacted the royal architect and a plan was made. Soon the labourers started to build the palace. A few days later, the Prime Minister went to King Vikramaditya and said, "Your Majesty, just where the palace is to be built, there is a poor old woman's broken hut. It is going to ruin the beauty of the palace." The king said, "Tell her, that she will be given another place and gold coins too if she'll leave the hut."



The next day the old woman met the king and said, "I'll not leave my hut. It's my dead husband's home. That's all I have received from him. No amount of gold can make me leave."

The king realized that the old woman was emotionally attached to the hut and he let it be. Everyone praised King Vikramaditya's sense of justice.





## 85.The Four Thieves



Once, there was a gang of four thieves. One night they robbed a wealthy merchant's house. But the servants woke up and chased them. The thieves ran away with all the robbed money and the ornaments and hid in a deep forest outside the city.

After two days they could not control their hunger, so one of them said, "Two of us must go to the city and see if everything is safe. Then they must get some food for the others."

So two of them went to the city. They went to a hotel and fed their hungry stomachs. Then they mixed poison in some packed food to feed the other two because they wanted to have all the wealth.

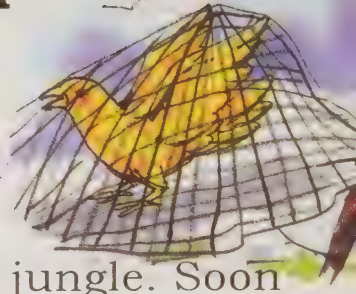
Back in the forest, the other two thieves also made a plan. They hid behind a bush. When the other two thieves came with the food, they stabbed them to death. Then they happily sat down to eat the food. But as soon as they ate it, they fell dead as the food was poisoned.

So all of them fell victims to their evil ways.



## 86. The Pleasure Of Freedom

Once in a jungle a beautiful golden bird had made her home on a tree. When she sang, shiny pearls fell from her open beak.



One day a bird catcher came to the jungle. Soon he spread a net and the poor golden bird was caught in it. The bird catcher took the bird home and kept it in a silver cage and fed it well. But the sad bird did not sing at all and the hunter never got any pearls.

The bird catcher sold the caged bird to a merchant. The merchant gifted that golden bird to the king. The king thought, "Hmm...that's a nice bird. I'll give it to the princess to play with."

So the king gave the caged bird to the princess.



She was a beautiful girl with a kind heart.

She at once freed the golden bird. The pleasure of freedom made the golden bird sing aloud and soon a shower of pearls fell in the room of princess.

The golden bird came to meet the princess everyday and sang for her.



## 87. The Intelligent Painter

Once a very old and rich woman lived in the town. She was of a rather eccentric nature.



Once, she asked a famous painter to paint her portrait. The painter completed the painting in a month. So she went to get the painting. Her dog accompanied her. The painter unveiled the old woman's portrait and waited for her comment. The old woman turned to her dog and asked, "Sheru, how is my portrait?"

But the dog did not look at the painting. The old woman angrily said, "Even my dog does not recognise me. I'll not pay you for this painting."

The painter replied, "Come in the morning again and I'll rectify the mistake."

In the night, the painter rubbed a piece of meat at the lower edge of the painting. Next day the old woman came with her dog. The dog smelt the meat and he started licking the painting. The old woman thought that the dog liked her portrait and paid a lot of money to the painter.



## 88. The Coconut

Once a miser went to buy a coconut. The coconut seller asked for ten rupees for one coconut.

"I'll pay you five rupees," said the miser.

"Then go to the wholesale market, two miles away. Only there you will get a coconut for five rupees," replied the coconut seller.

The miser walked to the wholesale market. He picked a coconut there and said to the coconut seller, "I will pay rupees three for this."

The vendor said, "If you want a coconut for three rupees then walk three miles to the seashore."

The miser walked to the seashore.

"I'll pay rupee one for a coconut," miser said to the coconut seller at the seashore.

"I won't sell it for a rupee. Why don't you climb the coconut tree and get it for free?"

The miser climbed up the tree, but he slipped and fell on ground and broke his back bone. He had to spend ten thousand rupees on treatment. All this just for a free coconut!





## 89. The Miser



Once a miser went to the city to meet his friend. The miser's friend thought of teaching him a lesson. He took him to the market and said, "You can wish to eat anything and I'll get it for you."

Then they went to a hotel. The friend asked, "How is this dinner?" The hotel owner replied, "As tasty as sweets, sir."

"Then let us have sweets," the friend said.

They went to a sweet shop and asked, "How are the sweets?"

"As sweet as honey," the sweet shop owner said.

The friend said, "Let us have honey then."

The friend took the miser to a honey shop and asked, "How is the honey?"

"As pure as water," the honey seller replied.

"Ah !" said the friend. "I'll feed you the purest of all the foods."

So the miser was offered several pots full of water instead of food. After this, the miser left the habit of miserliness forever.



## 90. The Intelligent Wife

Ramesh was a gambler. His wife Seema, was also fed up of her husband's gambling habit.



One day Ramesh lost a lot of money in a gamble to Ramu. So Ramu demanded for the money. But Ramesh had no money to give him. Then Ramu said, "I'll come to your house. Whichever thing I will touch first, will become mine."

Ramesh did not know what to do. He went home and told Seema about it. She said, "I will help you only if you promise to stop gambling forever." Ramesh agreed to it.

Seema took all valuable articles of the house and kept it in the attic. Next day Ramu came to their house. He saw all the valuable things kept together

in the attic. He started to climb the ladder. As he touched the ladder to climb up, Seema said, "Stop ! As per your words, the ladder is yours forever, because you touched it first. Now you may take the ladder."

Ramu went away sadly and Seema saved her valuables and her husband from gambling.







## 91.The Farmer's Kindness

Once a king's army was going back after a battle. Their food supplies got finished. The king asked his soldiers to go to a nearby village and get the grains.

Some soldiers and their commander entered the village and met a farmer. The commander asked him, "Dear farmer, can you lead us to this village's largest field?"

He took them to a large field. The commander ordered his soldiers, "Cut and collect all the grains."

At this, the farmer got scared, He said, "Sir, come and I'll show you another field."

The soldiers went with him to a small field. They collected the grains from that field. The commander asked the farmer why he led them to this field. The farmer replied, "That field belongs to someone else. How could I let you destroy it? This is my field and here I can allow you to do, what I wish."

The king learnt of the farmer's kind concern for others and paid him handsomely for his grains.



## 92. Gain Or Loss

It was summer and there were many instances of power failures. Ramesh wanted to be prepared for this, so he went to a shop. He bought two candles.



Each of them cost two rupees. When he gave a ten rupee note, the shopkeeper returned six rupees. There was a five rupee coin and two fifty paise coins.

At home, there was no light. So Ramesh lit the candle but by chance he dropped a fifty paise coin in the dark. He looked around but could not find the coin. Slowly the candle burnt to half but Ramesh was still busy looking for the coin. Gradually the candle was burnt out. So Ramesh lit

the second candle too and kept looking for the coin. A few minutes later, the second candle was also burnt out and luckily Ramesh recovered the coin.

But to gain the fifty paise Ramesh had burnt out candles worth four rupees. He wondered if he had gained a coin or lost some money.

We must be careful to make decisions which do not cause us loss in anyway.





## 93. Clever Monu



Monu was a small boy. He was very naughty, clever and witty. His witty replies amazed everyone.

One day Monu's mother sent him to the market to get some fruits and vegetables. Monu bought some vegetables and then went to a fruit vendor. He bought half a kilogram of pear. But the vendor was dishonest. He was cheating and weighed three fifty grams of pears only. Monu observed this and said, "These are not half kilogram of pears. These appear less."

"No, they are alright and anyway they will be easy for you to carry home."

Monu was clever. He gave money for three fifty grams of pears to the vendor. The vendor said, "I gave you half kilogram of pears. You are giving me less money."

Monu remarked, "No, the amount is correct. Besides they will be easy for you to count and carry in your pocket."

The fruit vendor was amazed at the small boy's words. Clever Monu had given him a befitting reply.



## 94. Selecting The Treasurer

Once the old treasurer of a king died. Now the king wanted an honest treasurer to take care of the royal treasury. The king announced that anyone who wanted to have a job in the royal palace must present himself in the palace next day.



The next morning, many people gathered in the royal courtyard. They were made to go through a passage from the courtyard to reach the king's court. In the passage, there were many pots full of gold coins and gems. When everyone had reached the court, the king ordered, "All of you must dance till I ask you to stop."

So all of them started dancing on the beats of the drums.



But as soon as they began dancing, gems and gold coins fell from their pockets which everyone had picked from the pots in the dark passage. Only a young man's dance did not bear any such things. The king said, "Guards, give ten whiplashes to all of these dishonest people. Only this man is fit to be my treasurer for he is honest."



## 95.The Magical Pot



One day a man and his wife were digging the land to sow some seeds. As they dug deep, their shovel hit something. They discovered a large empty copper pot under ground. They picked it out. They both carried the pot home. On the way, the man put his shovel in the pot.

At home, they looked in the pot. To their amazement, there were now two shovels inside. The man said, "Oh! This means, whatever you put in this magical pot, it will double by itself."

So the man put some money in the pot and doubled it. He put some more in it and it increased too. In such a way the couple now had a lot of money. Once the greedy wife was taking out money from the pot. She slipped and fell inside. The man pulled her out but now there were two wives. He pulled out the second woman and then four and so on until he had ten wives. The magical pot had put the man in great trouble.

That's why it is said that greed is a great evil.



## 96. The Hotel Owners

Once three friends decided to start a hotel. They found a small one-star neat looking hotel. They saw it from outside and stood talking about purchasing it. Meanwhile a man approached them and said, "I am the owner of this hotel and want to sell it. I heard that you wanted to buy it."

"Yes, you are right," the friends said.

"How much money do you have?" the man asked.

"We have two lakhs," one of them replied.

"Alright then. Take this bundle of hotel's papers and give me the money. The hotel is your's now."

They happily gave the money, took the papers and entered the hotel. They had a hearty lunch. The waiter asked for the bill's payment but the friends said, "We are the new owners of this hotel. See these papers."

The actual hotel owner came and after examining their papers he told them that these are fake papers of the hotel. So all the three friends had to wash dirty vessels to pay their bills. The friends realized that one must not act in haste.





## 97.Amit's Oversmartness



Amit had to leave Delhi and go to Mumbai. When he reached the railway station, the train was filled with passengers. There was no empty place in the carriage. Amit saw a man selling rubber toys. He suddenly had a plan.

Amit bought a rubber snake and threw it in the carriage. All the passengers got scared when they saw the snake. There were shouts of fright and cries for help. People ran out of the carriage. Now Amit soon saw an empty berth and lay down on it. The breeze blowing in through the window, put him to sleep.

A few hours later, Amit woke up.

He thought that the train had stopped at a station. He got out of the carriage and asked the T.C. "Which station is it?" The T.C. replied, "It is Delhi. Actually there was a snake in this carriage. So it was separated and left behind here while the other carriages have left for Mumbai."

Amit cried out in shock. His oversmartness had put him in deep trouble.



## 98. Patience Pays

Once a king had announced that anyone who wanted the post of personal assistant, must meet him.

Many people gathered in the palace. The king led them to a pond and said, "Whoever will fill this pond's water in this pot will be chosen for the post. But remember, there is a hole in the pot."

So some people left without a single try. While some people tried for once and then said, "The king has already chosen someone else. Let's go."

But one man kept filling the pot with pond water patiently. He filled the water in the pot from the pond and came out on the ground. But always

within few moments, the water poured on the ground completely. He tried that

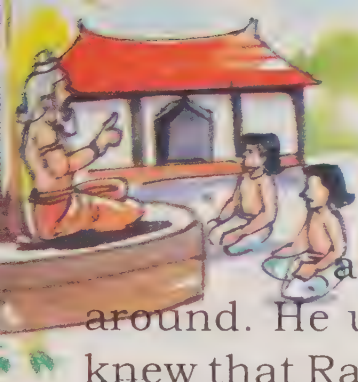
uncountable numbers of times. At last the pond became empty. The man found a diamond ring in the empty pond and he gave it to the king. At this the king said, "This ring is a reward for your patience and hard work. You are fit for the job."

So the man confirmed that patience pays.





## 99.A Priceless Lesson



Once upon a time, a student named Rakesh lived in an ashram. Every night he used to jump over the ashram's boundary wall and roam around. He used to return before dawn. No one knew that Rakesh went out at night.

One night as usual, Rakesh found everyone asleep. He peeped into Guruji's room and saw him sleeping. Then Rakesh crept out towards the wall. He climbed up a ladder, he had and jumped over the wall. But actually Guruji was awake and had seen Rakesh going out.

He got up and took away the ladder from the spot. A few hours later, Rakesh returned. In the dark, he tried to climb down from the wall. But Guruji stood where the ladder was. He helped Rakesh to get down and said, "Son, at least take a warm shawl, when you go out at night."

Guruji's gentle manner made Rakesh realize his own folly. He apologised and never went out at night again.



## 100.The Crow's Vanity

Once there was a crow who was always brooding about his colour. He thought sadly, "I am so black and ugly. If only I was colourful as other birds."



One day as the crow sat on a tree, a group of peacocks strutted by. They were walking with their feathers fanned out. The crow felt sad again, when he saw the peacocks' feathers. When the peacocks left, the crow found some of their feathers scattered on the ground. He picked them up and went to his friend the monkey. With his help, the crow tucked the feathers on his body. Then he went to the peacocks and said, "Let me join you for now I am as beautiful as you are."

But the peacocks grew angry and pecked the crow away from

there. The crow flew back to his own friends. But the crows said, "Go away from here. You cannot live with us because you don't feel proud to be what you are."

So the poor crow was abandoned by his own fellows and had to lead a lonely life. He learnt to accept himself as he was.







## 101.The Wrestling Tortoise

Once a tortoise went to learn wrestling from the rabbit, an expert wrestler. Soon the tortoise had learnt the art and became an excellent wrestler.

One day, a goat started to tease him. The tortoise lost his temper. Soon they got into a physical bout. The expert tortoise wrestled with him. Soon he defeated and injured the goat. The other animals started fearing the tortoise.

This made the tortoise feel proud of his strength. Soon he became very insulting towards others. He started to trouble innocent animals.

One day, he started teasing the rabbit and challenged him to wrestle with him. After all, the rabbit was the tortoise's teacher. Soon the rabbit defeated the tortoise and threw him to the ground. The tortoise's shell and back were broken. Now the other animals started teasing the same tortoise.

Thus the tortoise began to realize that pride has a fall.



## 102.The Story Of Wells

Once upon a time, there was a severe drought in a country. The king sent his soldiers in search of water everywhere.



One soldier reached a busy street market and asked a shopkeeper, "Where can I get water?"

The shopkeeper said, "There is no water here but you can take this slab of ice. It is frozen water."

So the soldier took the ice with him. Neither he nor his king had seen ice before. Soon the soldier reached the king but in the meantime the ice slab had melted into a small piece of ice. The king asked the soldier to dig the ground to what he thought was the 'seed of water'

to grow a 'tree of water.' But the ice piece melted when

kept on ground and the water got absorbed in the ground. The king asked his soldiers to dig the ground to get back the piece of ice. The soldiers dug deep in the ground but to their amazement, they found water there instead of the ice. That is how the wells were created.

So, the wells were dug all over the kingdom.





## 103. The Potter's Prayers



Once there was a potter, who made earthen pots. He had a good business but sometimes people complained that his pots would break easily. Once, he got fed up of hearing the complaints. He prayed to the goddess. When she appeared, the potter said, "Please make my pots unbreakable, so the customers stop complaining."

The Goddess blessed the potter and vanished. Now all the pots he made became unbreakable. So the complaints stopped but the customers stopped buying new pots because their old pots were not breaking or getting damaged.

The potter prayed to the Goddess again and said, "Mother, forgive me.

Please make the pots as before. I tried to go against nature but I was wrong."

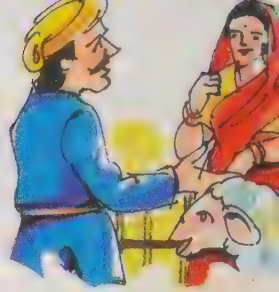
The Goddess heard the potter's prayers and fulfilled his wish. Now the potter's business flourished as before.

That is why it is said that we should accept things as they are.



## 104. The Smart Dog

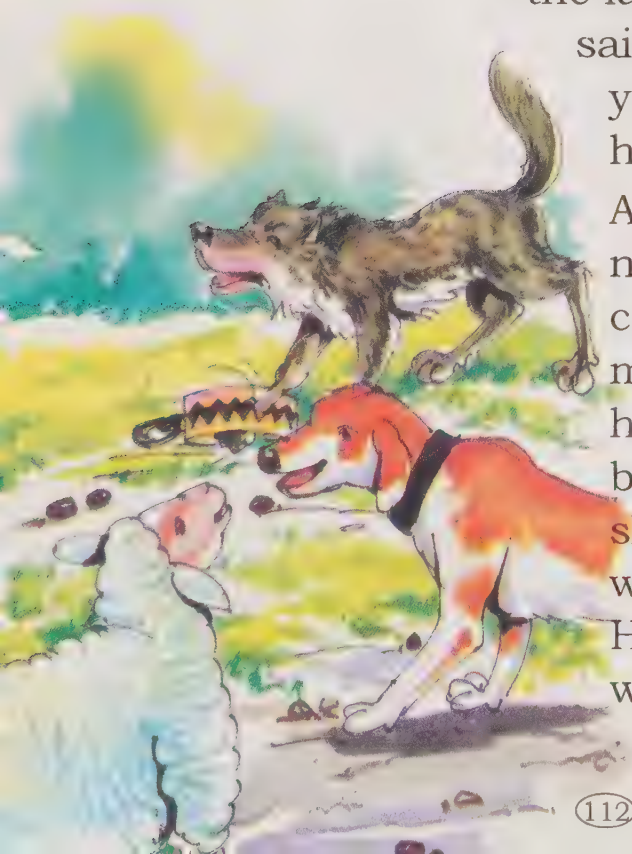
Once a farmer and his wife had a flock of sheep. Even after all their efforts, a wolf ate up all the sheep and only one sheep was left. Once the couple sat talking about selling the remaining sheep. The sheep heard them and thought, "I'd rather live freely than be killed by a butcher."



So the sheep left the farm at night with the guard dog. By chance, the wolf saw them and thought to get the sheep for dinner. But he knew that he could not harm the sheep in the presence of the dog. So he said to the sheep, "Hey sheep! Come here and return the coat that I lent you last week."

The dog understood what the wolf wanted. He saw a trap laid by the farmer near a tree. So he said, "We will believe you, if you touch the holy chain hanging near the tree."

As soon as the wolf went near the tree, his feet got caught in the trap. In the morning, the farmer was happy that the wolf had been caught. So the sheep and the guard dog were needed again. Hence they went back with him.





## 105. Faith In God



Mansukh Lal was a hardworking man. Initially he believed in God and attributed his success to God. He became a successful businessman. But gradually as he acquired success, he became very proud. He now thought that his success was due to his hard work. He stopped praising God and even removed God's idol from his house.

Once, during a discussion about God with some people, Mansukhlal said, "Who is God ? It's not due to him, that I am so much successful now. It's all my hard work only. And if actually God is so powerful then he can kill me in five minutes from now. I challenge him."

Five minutes later, Mansukh Lal laughed at God for he was still alive. But an old man got up and said, "If your son asks you to kill him with a gun, will you do that ? God is like your father and he'll never harm you."

Mansukh Lal realized his mistake and apologised to God. Now he knew that faith in God is far more important than God himself.



## 106.How Cats Became Pets

Long before today the cat lived in the jungle. She always wanted to be friends with the strongest animal.

Once she observed that everyone feared the lion so she became the lion's friend.

One day, as they were sunbathing, an elephant passed by. All the animals including the lion cleared the way to let the elephant pass. The cat thought that the elephant was stronger than the lion. So she became the elephant's friend. One day as the cat and the elephant were at the lake, the elephant trumpeted, "There are hunters here!" and he ran away. So now the cat left the elephant and went to

the city to live with the hunter thinking that the hunter was stronger. In the city, the hunter took him home. His wife shouted at him, "Ha! You could not kill a lion but why have you brought this useless cat here?"

Suddenly a mouse passed nearby and the woman screamed. The cat ran and caught the mouse. The woman was happy to get rid of the mouse. So she kept the cat as a pet in her house.





## 107. Mohit's Cleverness

Once Mohit and his younger brother Sumit were alone at home.

Suddenly, two men got into the house and said, "We are your father's friends. We want a blue file he has." Actually they were terrorists.

Mohit's father was a police officer and he had brought a file home. It had information about the dens of notorious terrorists. Mohit knew the file was safe inside the cupboard. But Mohit said, "I had seen the file on the table."

As the terrorists searched for the file on the table. Mohit signalled to Sumit. Sumit started crying loudly. One of them shouted, "Stop crying, you fool!"

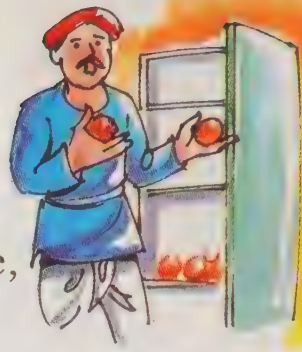
Mohit said, "He wants biscuits to eat. They are in kitchen's cupboard. I can't reach it."

Both of them got into the kitchen to get the biscuit. Mohit quickly locked the kitchen door and called his neighbours. Soon the police also reached Mohit's house and arrested both of the terrorists.



## 108. The Guilty Person

Akram worked as a servant in a rich man's mansion. He used to do various domestic works. But he had a bad habit. Each time he was alone, he would steal something to eat.



One day, the owner's family went to attend a wedding. Soon Akram was all alone in the house. He went into the kitchen and opened the refrigerator. There he, drank some juice and ate some sweets. He saw two oranges and ate them. Just then the doorbell rang. Akram got scared. He thought, "Oh! May be the owner has come. What do I do with these orange peels? If I stay to hide them

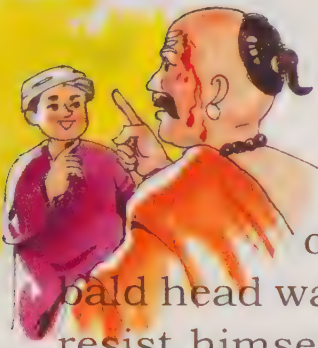
I'll be late at the door. If I keep them here I'll be caught."

So Akram ate up the orange peels too and then he opened the door. But to Akram's disappointment, there was a postman to deliver a registered letter. When he left, Akram thought, "A thief is always afraid of being caught. Today that fear made me eat the orange peels too. I'll never steal food from today."





## 109.A Lesson



Bittoo was a very naughty boy. One day he sat atop a tree with his catapult. Just then, he saw the priest of the village temple passing by. His bald head was shining in the sun. Bittoo could not resist himself, so he took a stone and aimed it at the priest's head. The stone struck the priest's head causing a wound that started bleeding. The priest cried out in pain. He looked around and soon spotted Bittoo on the tree with the catapult in his hand. He called Bittoo down and said, "Your aim is excellent, son. Tomorrow the king will pass this way. You must hit a stone to his head. He will reward you for the excellent aim."

Next day when the king passed by, Bittoo hit a stone on his forehead. As the king started bleeding he sent his guards to get Bittoo. The king ordered that Bittoo be whipped a hundred times in public.

Bittoo cried for forgiveness. The king forgave him when he promised not to be naughty anymore.



## 110.Kishan's Plan

Kishan was a poor farmer. One of his oxen died. Kishan decided to sell the other ox to a friend in the city.

As Kishan was going back to the village after selling the ox, he passed through a forest. Four dacoits blocked his way. They wanted to rob him. They took his money. Then they thought that if they would let him go, he would complain in the police station. So they tried to kill him.

But Kishan was clever. He laughed aloud and said, "Try your best but you cannot kill me. An astrologer has said that four blind men will kill me."

All the four dacoits covered their eyes with a cloth to kill him, but Kishan ran off.

The dacoits realized this and followed him. By then,

Kishan had reached the main road where he saw a police jeep. He told the police everything about the four dacoits. So within a short span of time, the police arrested the dacoits. Kishan got his money back and a reward of ten thousand rupees was given to him which he spent on buying new oxen, new cart and a new hut.





## 111. Think Before You Speak



Once a fairy came to a poor woodcutter and his wife and said, "You have worked hard for so many years. Ask for any three wishes and they will be granted."

The couple started to think what they must ask for. The wife said, "Let's ask for a lot of money!"

"No, then the dacoits will kill us for the money," the woodcutter said. So the couple said to the fairy that they would think and tell.

That night they sat by the kitchen stove thinking what to ask for. The wife said, "I wish, we had chicken to eat." and there appeared a chicken on a plate. The woodcutter scolded,

"You have wasted a wish. Now

stick the chicken to year

nose." and the chicken

flew and stuck to the

woman's nose. The

couple got scared now.

The wife said, "Let me be

free of this chicken,"

and so the third wish

was wasted too and the

chicken got unstruck

from her nose.

The foolish couple did

not think before they

spoke and lost a chance

of becoming rich.



## 112. Rahman's Gold

Once, Rahman was sitting outside his hut on a hill, watching the beautiful sun set.

Just then, he saw something shining at a distance. He exclaimed, "Oh, it's a shiny house. It must be made of gold." So Rahman rushed towards the golden house. He wanted to reach it as soon as possible. But when he reached the spot, there was no golden house. There was an old hut. The sun's rays had given its walls a golden glow. So Rahman turned to go back up the hill. He looked up and saw a golden house at the top. He shouted, "There is a golden house up there too!"

So he climbed up the hill quickly. He reached the hill to find that golden house to be his own hut. He had thrown some glass pieces on the roof. The glass pieces were catching the sun's rays and shining. Then Rahman smiled to himself and said, "Oh, it is not gold either. Anyway now I've learnt that all that glitters is not gold."







## 113.Dream Comes True

Once poor Bhiku, went to Bansilal's shop. Bansilal asked Bhiku, "Why are you standing here like this?"

Bhiku said, "Last night I saw a dream."

"So what about the dream?" Bansilal smiled.

"I saw that I would get gold here, in front of your shop," Bhiku replied seriously.

Bansilal laughed and said, "You fool, dreams never come true. If dreams came true then I tell you what I saw in my dream. In my dream I saw that there is gold underground in your courtyard."

Bhiku rushed back. On the way he kept thinking, "May be dreams do come true." He reached home and started digging in his

courtyard. Suddenly his

shovel struck a pot. He

took out the pot. It was

filled with gold coins.

Bhiku happily said,

"Thanks to Bansilal

who teased me about

my dreams. Now I am

no longer a poor man."

Thus it is true that

courage and patience

can make dreams come

true.



## 114.Yashvardhan's Wisdom

Once a very famous and intelligent scholar Yashvardhan lived in a village.

One day, a royal messenger came to the village. He went to Yashvardhan and said, "I am a royal messenger. The king has called you. Please come with me."

Yashvardhan obeyed the royal orders and accompanied the messenger to the palace. There, the king welcomed him. Then, they had lunch together. After some entertainments, the king said, "Yashvardhan, please accept this bag of gold coins. This is a gift for you. It has a hundred gold coins."

"But, Your Majesty, why are you giving this to me? I cannot accept it."

"Why not ? I heard that you are a great scholar so I am giving you this gift." He said, "Your Majesty, you are giving me gift because you heard that I am a scholar. If tomorrow someone says that I am a rogue, will you punish me? Please confirm and check before believing what others say."

The king was impressed by Yashvardhan's wisdom.





## 115.Green Gold



Rima was a beggar girl. One day a lady gave her some saplings and seeds of flower plants instead of alms and said, "Plant these saplings and seeds. You will gain a hundred times more from them."

Rima did not understand anything but decided to do as the lady had said. She went to her small hut and dug the ground by its side. Then she planted the saplings and sowed the seeds. She watered them well and a few weeks later, flowers bloomed around her hut. One day a few women came to buy the flowers, Rima had grown. So from that day Rima plucked the flowers and sold them door to door. Sometimes, she sold them in the market and on the roads. She was earning her living well and had stopped begging. Soon some people became regular buyers of her flowers. She saved enough money to open a small flower shop in the market and many people went to Rima's flower collection.

Rima thanked the lady who had led her to get green gold.



## 116.Value Of Time

Once, a king and a lazy man named Haria were very good friends. One morning, the king said, "Why don't you do work to earn some money?"

Haria said, "No one gives me job. My enemies have told everyone that I never do any work in time."

The kind king said, "You can go into my treasury and collect as much wealth as you can, till sunset."

Haria rushed home to tell this to his wife. She said, "Go and get the gold coins and gems now."

"I cannot go now. Give me lunch first."

After lunch, he took a nap for an hour. Then in the late afternoon, he picked some bags and went to the palace. On the way, he felt hot so he sat under a tree to rest. Then, two hours later,

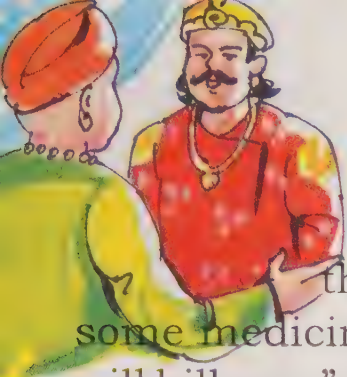
he got up to go but saw a man showing some magic tricks. He stopped to watch for an hour again.

When he reached the palace it was already time for sunset. The palace gates had been shut. So Haria had lost a golden chance because he had not learnt the value of time.





## 117.The King's Cure



Once there was a very lazy king. He hardly did any physical activity. As a result he started staying ill. He called the royal doctor and said, "Give me some medicine to get well. If you don't cure, me I will kill you."

The doctor knew laziness was the main cause of the king's illness. Next day the doctor gave the big dumbbells to him and said, "Your Majesty, you must swing these magic balls in your hands every morning and evening for an hour. Do this till your arms start sweating and you will start getting cured."

The king did this everyday not knowing that it was an exercise. Within a few weeks his body became fit and he felt alert and energetic. He thanked the doctor and asked the cure's secret.

The royal doctor said, "Your Majesty, the magic of this cure will keep you fit till you keep swinging these dumbbells. The day you stop you will become ill again."

The doctor had taught the king to keep fit without offending him.



## 118. The Fourteenth Man

Mohan was an educated but unemployed young man. So one day, he decided that he would wait at the palace gates for the Prime Minister. Then he would talk to him about a job. So the next day, Mohan positioned himself at the palace gates to wait for the Prime Minister.



To pass his time, Mohan started counting the people who went in through the gates. Throughout the day, he counted fourteen strangers going in. By evening, thirteen of them had come out.

When the Prime Minister came out of the palace gates, Mohan asked for a job but unfortunately the Prime Minister said no to him.

Then Mohan mentioned that only thirteen out of the fourteen strangers had come out of the palace. At once the Prime Minister ordered for a search and soon a man was found hiding in the king's bed chamber. He was an enemy spy, who had come to kill the king.

The Prime Minister got impressed by Mohan's alertness and made him the king's bodyguard.





## 119.Kanhayya's God



Kanhayya was poor but a generous man. Once he invited three of his friends for lunch. But there was nothing left in his house to cook. So Kanhayya went out for the arrangement of food.

Sometime later, his friends reached his house. They spotted a grinding stone in his house with a floral necklace placed on it. When they enquired about that, Kanhayya's wife said, "It's your friend's God. He offers him prayers by beating the guests with it."

They heard this and ran out. On the way, Kanhayya saw them running off. He asked his wife as to what had happened. She said, "They asked for the grinding stone. I refused to give it to them so they went away in anger."

Kanhayya picked it up and ran after them to give it to them. When his friends saw him coming with grinding stone, they remembered his wife's words. So they ran very fast and disappeared. From that day no one went to his house for lunch and his wife breathed a sigh of relief.



## 120. The Royal Gift

Once a poor brahmin went to the king and said, "Your Majesty, last night, I dreamt that you have been crowned as the king of the kings."

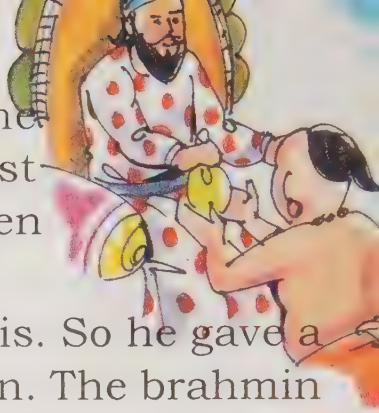
The king felt very happy to hear this. So he gave a thousand gold coins to the brahmin. The brahmin accepted the royal gift and left the palace. On the way home, he passed through a small forest. He was busy counting the coins when one of them fell and rolled into the thick undergrowth. He searched for it for hours and soon it was evening. The king passed by the woods on a walk. When he learnt that the brahmin is searching for a coin since

morning, he took away the bag of gold coins and said, "You have wasted your full day for just finding a single gold coin !

A greedy man like you does not deserve this."

But the clever brahmin said, "Your Majesty, I was searching the coin because I want no one stepping on a royal gift."

The king was impressed by the clever reply and gifted a hundred coins extra to the brahmin.





## 121. The World Is Round



One day a priest's one slipper fell into the river. The priest threw the other slipper into the water because he had no use for one slipper.

A man was bathing in the river. He saw the slipper and threw it on the bank. But the slipper hit a man who was carrying a pot of kheer on his head. The pot broke and the kheer spilled on the ground.

Suddenly a hawk swooped down and flew off with the slipper. As the hawk flew in the sky the slipper fell from his beak and into the plates of people who were eating in an open field.

In anger, they threw the slipper in the field. There, a man was busy milking a cow. The slipper went and hung on one of the cow's horn. She started jumping around. The angry milkman threw the slipper into nearby a house.



A man was sitting in the courtyard there. He saw the slipper. He was the priest 'the owner of the slipper.' He thought, "My slipper has come back to me. The world is indeed round."



## 122. Elephant's Long Trunk

A long, long time ago, the elephants had a small trunk. It was not as long as it is now.

One day an elephant saw a crocodile on a river bank. The elephant teased the crocodile and said, "Hey, you crawling creatures, I wonder why you are not small like the other creatures. You are too long for your comfort."

The crocodile lost his temper at being called a crawler. So he said, "Now I'll show you how strong a crawling creature can be !"

So immediately the crocodile caught the elephant's trunk in his mouth. The elephant cried out in pain

and tried to pull his trunk out but

the crocodile held on to it. Soon the other animals heard the

elephant's cries and came

to help. They pulled the

elephant by the tail and

so this pulling caused

the trunk to be stretched

long. The elephant grew

very sad at this, but the

animals told him the

advantages of a a long

trunk. So the elephant

felt happy again.





## 123. The Enemies



Earlier, the mongoose used to be a poisonous animal. All the animals used to fear him.

One day all the animals, discussed how all of them were troubled by the mongoose's cruel attacks. It was decided that the mongoose was to be stopped from such acts. Then the snake said, "I can do this task easily." And then the snake told his plan to the others. In those days, the snake was not a poisonous animal. The snake went to the mongoose and said, "My friend, I am here to warn you. All the animals are coming in a large group to snatch away your sack of poison."

"Let them come. I'll bite them to death," the mongoose challenged.

"You can fight the smaller animals, but not the larger ones," the snake said. So the trusting mongoose gave his poison sack to the snake for safekeep, but the snake never returned it to him. Since then, the mongoose fights with the snake to gain back his poison sack.



## 124.What To Buy?

One day three penniless friends saw a rupee coin on the road. As the three of them had seen the coin together, each tried to claim it. Then they decided that they would not fight but they would buy some eatable with the money and share it equally.

First one said, "I want to eat something which tastes sweet."

Second friend said, "But I am feeling hungry. I want to eat a lot of things to fill up my hungry stomach."

At this, the third intervened and said, "But I am feeling thirsty. We must drink something that would quench my thirst too."

An old man had seen them argueing. So he led them to a fruit shop. The old man took the rupee coin from them and bought a small bunch of grapes. He said, "You can eat it because it is sweet. It is in large numbers as one of you wished and it is juicy so it will quench your thirst. I guess you won't fight how."

The three friends agreed and enjoyed the grapes.





## 125. Clever Farmer



One night a clever farmer was returning home from a cattle fair. He bought a buffalo from there. As he passed through a dense forest, a dacoit came in front of him. He had a thick stick in his hand. He said, "Hand over all that you have."

The farmer got scared and gave his money to the dacoit. As he turned to go, the dacoit said, "Give me the buffalo too. Why are you taking it away?"

The farmer handed over the buffalo's rope to the dacoit. Then the farmer said, "You have taken everything of mine. Can you give me your stick?"

"Why do you need it?" the dacoit enquired.

"My wife will be pleased that at least I got a stick from the fair."

The dacoit gave the stick to the farmer happily. Immediately the clever farmer started beating the dacoit with the stick. The dacoit ran off to save his life leaving the buffalo and the farmer's money behind. So the clever farmer saved himself and his belongings too.



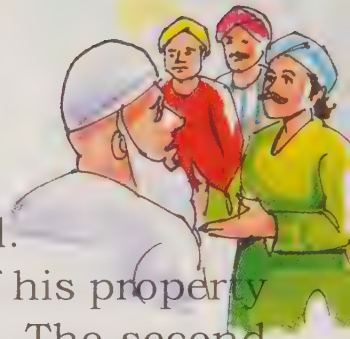
## 126. The Qazi's Justice

Once a just Qazi lived in Baghdad. One day a strange case was put before him. Three brothers came to him and said, "Our father is dead. Before his death, he said that, half of his property would be given to the eldest brother. The second brother must receive one fourth of his property and the youngest must be given one sixth of it. We have divided all the property this way. But we have eleven camels. How can we divide them?"

The Qazi went to the three brother's house and said, "Do you mind if I add my camel to your herd?"

"No, we don't," they replied.

Now, there were twelve camels. So the Qazi gave half of the camels to the eldest, which is six camels. Then the second brother received one fourth, which is three camels. Finally the third brother got one sixth of twelve camels, which is two camels. Then the Qazi took back his own camel. The brothers thanked the Qazi, for his just decision.





## 127. Tit For Tat



One day, a mango vendor stopped near a paan shop and thought, "Oh ! I want to eat a paan, but I don't have any money with me."

By then, the paan seller had also seen the mango vendor. He thought, "Oh! Such lovely mangoes. I wish I could eat one of those juicy ones."

So the paan seller shouted out to him, "Hey, will you exchange a mango for a paan ?"

The mango vendor agreed. But the paan seller took some rotten betel leaves and made a tiny paan. He gave it the mango vendor. When the mango vendor asked for chuna, he replied, "Go and rub the paan against the wall to get chuna."

The mango vendor realized that he was being cheated. He gave a green mango to the paan seller. On seeing the green mango, the paan seller said, "Give me a yellow mango."

The mango vendor replied, "Rub your mango against that yellow painted wall and you'll get your yellow mango."



## 128. The Jealous Tree

Once a man's feet struck against a large stone on a path. He picked it up and placed it under a tree.

A while later, a painter came to paint a painting under that tree. As he left, some red paint fell on the stone and looked like vermillion.

Sometimes later, a flower seller sat under that tree to make a flower garland. When she got up to leave, some flowers fell near the stone. The people thought that the stone was some God's idol and started worshipping it.

The tree grew jealous. He thought, "People come to offer prayers to the stone. Before this, they used to come to sit in my shade."

So, the tree picked the stone and flung it far away. When the people came to offer prayers, they found the stone missing. They said, "If God has left this place, then this place must be unholy and so is this tree."

So they cut down the tree. With its dying breath, the tree thought, "Ah! Now I am getting punished for being jealous."







## 129. The Intelligent Enemy

King Kalhetu was a cruel and greedy king. He had attacked many of his neighbouring kingdoms and defeated them too. But there was only one king, he had never been able to defeat. He was King Udayman of Vikramgarh.

Once King Kalhetu had invited King Udayman to have lunch at his palace. King Udayman accepted the invitation. He went to King Kalhetu's palace, but there, he was put in prison. Then King Kalhetu felt very happy. There were songs and dances in his royal court and he felt very proud indeed. Just then a guard came into the court and said, "Your Majesty, King Udayman of Vikramgarh has surrounded our kingdom with his army. He has attacked us. The man in the prison is not the king but an imposter sent by the clever king."

Now King Kalhetu had to give in to King Udayman. He promised never to attack any other kingdoms. He was also forced to grant freedom to other kingdoms.



## 130. The Two Beggars

Once a king saw a dirty beggar rubbing his back against the palace gates. He summoned the beggar.

Then he asked the beggar, "Why were you rubbing your back against the palace gates?"

"Your Majesty, my back was itching, so I was rubbing my back against the iron gates."

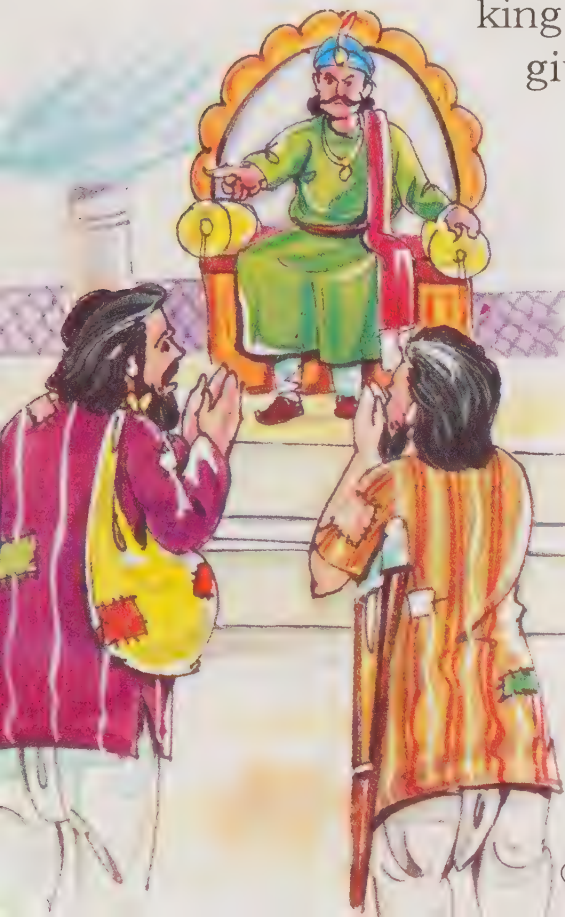
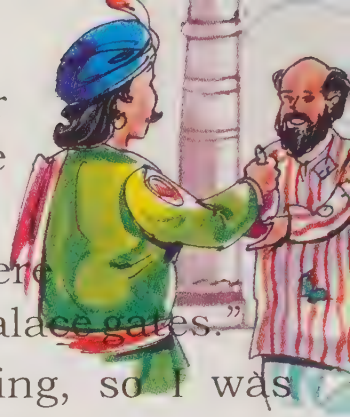
The king asked the guards to give the beggar a hot bath and fifty gold coins. This news soon spread throughout the kingdom like a jungle fire.

A few days later, the king saw two poor and dirty beggars rubbing their backs against the palace gates. He asked them what they were doing and they replied

that their backs were itching. The king called his guards and said, give these beggars fifty whiplashes on their backs to cure their itch."

"But, Your Majesty, you gave the other beggar fifty gold coins."

"He told the truth. Because he was alone he could not scratch his own back." But you are two men so you can scratch each other's back. You are here only out of greed."





## 131. Better Than Ministers



One day a poor washerman loaded the clothes on his donkey's back. Then he also sat on the donkey. On the way, some people laughed at him and said, "Hey! Look, a fool is riding another fool!"

The washerman replied, "He is no fool, for my donkey is smarter than the king's ministers!"

Soon the washerman's comment reached the king's ears. He summoned the washerman and asked, "What made you claim that your donkey was so smart?"

"Your Majesty, one day as we crossed a bridge, my donkey's feet were caught in a gap between two slabs of wood on the bridge. Since then, each time when he reaches that spot, he crosses the bridge carefully. But your ministers have been spending money from the royal treasury again and again but have not learnt that they are making a mistake."

At this, the king scolded his ministers and started keeping an eye on their spendings.



## 132. For A Rupee

One day Golu was passing through a forest at night. As he was walking, a gang of dacoits surrounded him. They had knives and daggers in their hands.



They stood around him and then their leader shouted at Golu, "Hand over whatever you have, money, jewellery, everything."

But Golu replied fearlessly, "I won't give you a single rupee. Do what you wish to."

The leader took out a pistol and aimed it at Golu, "You won't listen, will you?"

But strong Golu resisted them. He fought bravely but he was no match to them.

So the dacoits tied him by a rope.

Then they started to search his clothes. They got only a one

rupee coin in his pocket and nothing else. Their leader said, "This young man fought and resisted so much just for a single rupee. Wonder what will he do to protect a larger amount ! Now remember never to try and loot him if you see him, anywhere in future."

So they freed Golu and let him go.





### 133. Who Is The Fool?



One day Seth Kishanlal went to the city. In a jewellery shop window, he saw a real diamond. He went inside the shop and asked the shopkeeper, "How much does that diamond cost?"

"Two thousand rupees," the shopkeeper replied.

Kishanlal was a miser, so he said, "Will you sell it for a thousand rupees?" The shopkeeper refused.

Kishanlal thought, "I'll go now. I'll ask for it once again in the evening. May be he'll give it to me then."

So in the evening, he went back to the shopkeeper and said, "Will you give me the real diamond for a thousand rupees?"

"No, actually I had only a single real diamond which I've already sold for five thousand rupees," the shopkeeper said.

"You fool, that diamond was worth fifty thousand and you sold it for just five thousand only!"

"Sir, why didn't you buy it for two thousand in the morning? For a small gain you have incurred a heavy loss," the shopkeeper said.



## 134. The Class Monitor

All the students were excited because they were going for a picnic. The teacher called Amar and said, "Amar, I appoint you as the class monitor. You must make sure that all students get into the bus in a queue. No one must put their hand or head out of the window and keep a count of the number of students."



Amar said, "Yes, maam, I'll do as you say."

So, everyone enjoyed and had fun on the picnic. Then everyone sat in the bus to go back home.

Just then, the teacher saw Amar putting his head out of the window. She got angry and scolded Amar, "How irresponsible you are, Amar!

I made you class monitor to control, others, but you yourself are breaking the rule. Shame on you!"



But Amar bowed his head and said, "Maam, I was acting per your instructions. I was looking out to see that no students should be left behind."

The teacher felt embarassed for scolding Amar without any fault of his.



## 135.The Three Questions



King Mansingh had the habit of posing puzzles in the royal court. If someone could not answer them, he used to give them punishments.

Once a man came to the royal court and challenged him, “You must answer my three questions correctly or you will have to give up the throne as a punishment.” King Mansingh agreed.

The man asked, “Which runs faster than the wind? Who helps in trouble? And which is the sweetest thing in the world?”

Neither the king nor his courtiers could answer the questions. Now the king feared losing his throne. But his clever queen told him the answers and said, “Promise me never to pose questions to the people.”

The king promised and went to court. Then he gave the answers. “A heart’s wishes are faster than the wind. Support helps a man in trouble and polite words are the sweetest in the world.”

The man went away after hearing the correct answers.



## 136. The Lazy Birds

Once two birds named Rinki and Minki lived in a nest. Both of them were very lazy. They always found excuses for not doing any work.



Once, on a cold winter day, a chilly breeze was blowing. There was some snowfall too. By chance, a hole was made in their nest. The cold breeze blew in through the hole and chilled the nest. Both the birds started feeling cold. Minki thought, "I wonder why Rinki is so lazy ? Why is she not repairing the hole?"

On the other hand, Rinki thought that Minki would fill the hole. Both of them were depending on each other and no one mended the hole.

Soon snow started to fall and the chill nearly froze the insides of their warm nest. The snow flakes entered the nest through the hole. The lazy birds started shivering with cold, but no one was active enough to work.

In the morning both the birds were dead in their nest. They had shivered to death but due to laziness they had not got up to mend the hole.



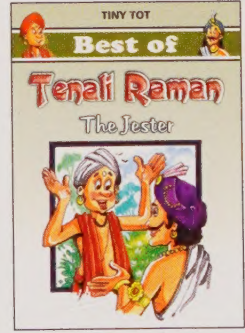
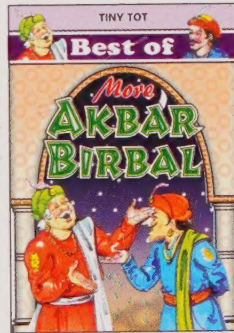
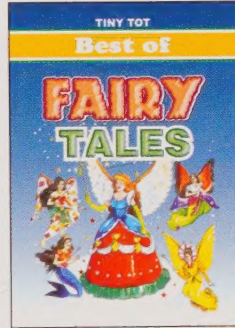
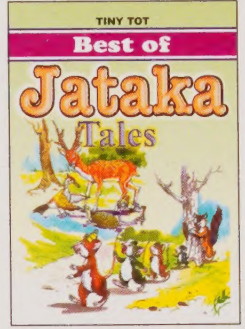
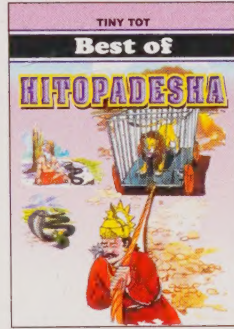
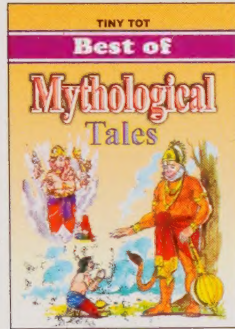
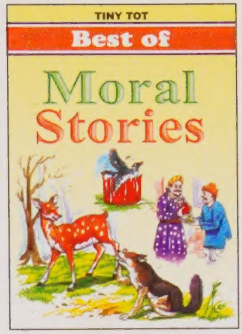
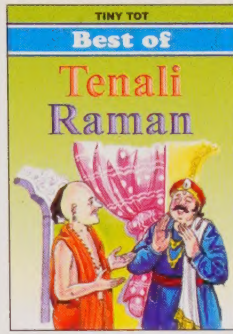
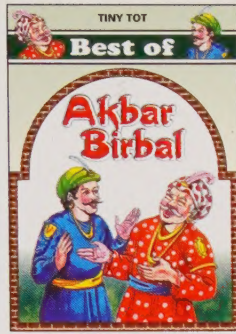








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